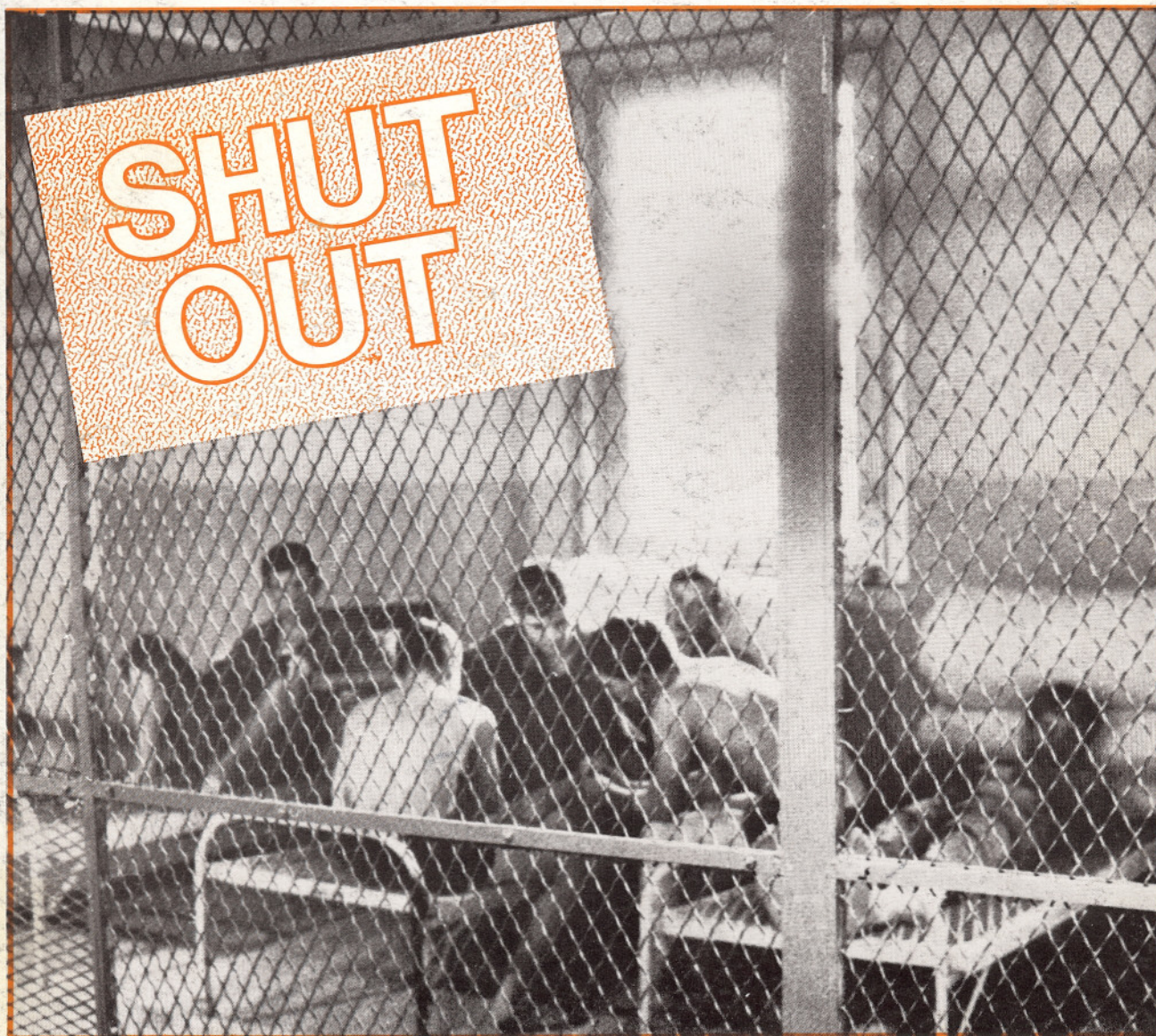


KEEP STRONG

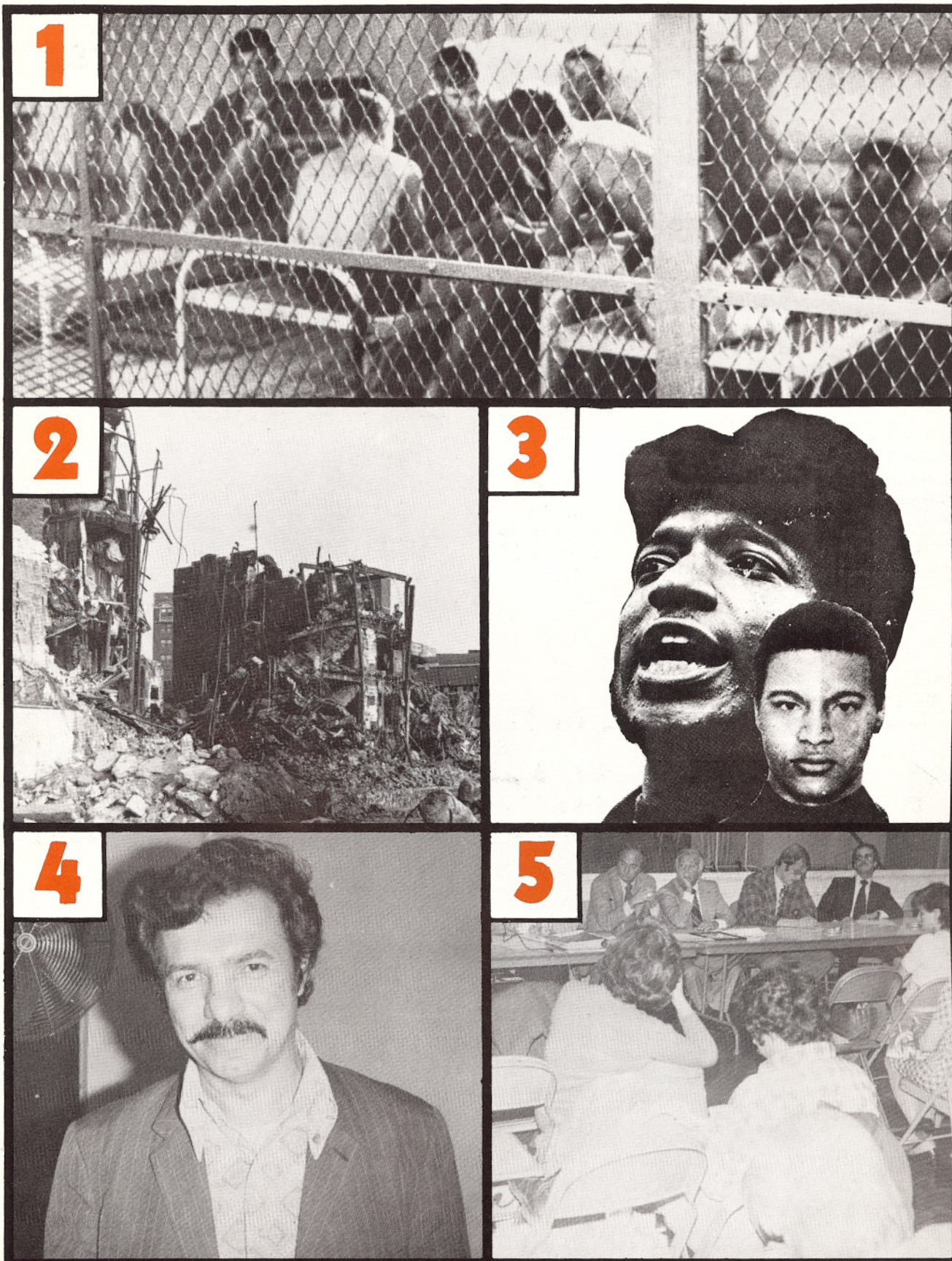
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- Interview with Cha-Cha Jiménez on Youth
- Community Files Suit Against the City

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In This Issue

1 The KEEP STRONG editorial this month (see page 2) discusses the "shut out" of opportunities young people of our communities face today. A special interview with Cha-Cha Jimenez provides insight into youth problems and solutions. (see page 24)

2 Bill Thompson is leading a pack of land-hungry developers in an all out attack on low-income housing in Uptown.

3 Justice still sought for the murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, on December 4, 1969.

4 In Chicago last month, Carlos Feliciano, soldier in the movement for Puerto Rican Independence.

5 Working with the police, the "neighborhood war on crime" ignores the causes of crime.

Cover Photo credit: Filmmakers, Inc. courtesy of the John Howard Association.

YOUTH SHUT OUT

Guarded expressions, too often, haunt the faces of young sisters and brothers on the streets of Chicago's poor and oppressed communities. Tense and wary, our community's future is being defined, shaped and molded in the constant everyday struggle to survive the obstacles of life in a city that slams many doors of opportunities in their faces and places dangers around many corners.

Even a hurried look tells us more than many of us may want to know. Unemployment, high everywhere, in many areas reaches over 50% for young people. Chicago's schools serve as jails of boredom that "serve society" by keeping thousands off the streets for a few hours, but often fail to teach even basic reading skills. Schools, neighborhoods and factories are marketplaces for the hard drug, heroin. Meanwhile, a growing octopus-like police state seeks out those forced on to the streets, sucking them in at an early age, establishing a record on them and pulling them through crowded courts into overcrowded prisons and jails.

This is the shut out — the way our youth is being shut out of the "milk and honey" of the richest country in the world. Awareness of this shut out grew in the 1960's, through the efforts of leaders like Fred Hampton, who gave his life at the age of 21 to expose the contradictions facing young people. But the 1970's, programmed by the Nixons and Mitchells and their successors, have changed the climate again. Now youth are blamed for being unemployed, for having a poor education, for drug addiction and — most of all — for crime. The neighborhood war on crime, nationally coordinated by the police apparatus, has become a war on young people.

The movement for social justice and social opportunity for young people, depends most on the youth. If brothers and sisters can stay out of the trickbags of racism and hard drugs, then unity can be built. And in unity there is real power. But the community as a whole must come to their defense and support now. It is past time for us to fight back.

KEEP STRONG would like, this month, to salute with pride the young people of our community, so many of whom are holding on to their humanity in the face of a situation which could harden, twist and destroy anyone of us. □



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ON THE STREET

"DO YOU THINK THERE ARE ENOUGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH TODAY?"

Question asked at Broadway and Wilson.



Ronald Guyette
811 Eastwood

"No, I don't. There are no opportunities."

*Journalism Department
University of Wisconsin*

Lillie Jones
4619 N. Broadway



"My answer is no. For one reason there is too many kids on the street, and if they had enough opportunity, they wouldn't be on the street."



Roy Gidlund
4654 N. Kenmore

"No, I don't think so. They should have a better break. You can see how it is all over. The young fellows turn to crime by the thousands because they can't get any help from the government even. You see how the government works. They need more support and they're dragging it out and don't give them it. What are they going to do? I heard one fellow on the radio, 'This government is forcing me to steal,' he said. 'I've got to have something to eat. I can't see my children starve. I mean do something.' This is what goes on all over today."

Esther Gales
4425 N. Racine



"I doubt it. The way the world looks today, it doesn't look like they'll have the opportunity to do anything."



Joyce Eakin
850 Eastwood

"Obviously not. If you take a look around any street corner, there are so many young people with nothing to do. There is nothing meaningful for them in this area. There must be programs that will give them something to do other than just the daywork which leads them nowhere; something with a little pride where they feel they are a part of the community and adding to the community. We really need it around here."

Pat Hunt
4012 N. Sheridan



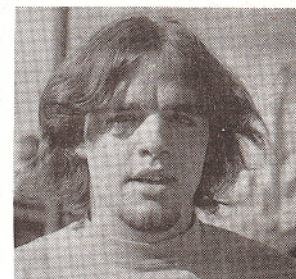
"No, the kids here in Chicago have nothing for themselves. What are they going to do? There is nothing for the children at any age. They have no place to roller skate, no recreation hall. They have nothing to do except for pool. They go into the pool houses and what do they do? They get into trouble. And people don't want them to work because they're too young or they've been in trouble with the police. They're trying to find something to do, so they're getting into trouble. There is nothing here for the children but trouble."



Josephine Brown
4815 N. Springfield

"I don't, because I think if there was more opportunity we would have less trouble with children getting into different things."

Wesley Jockell
4153 N. Kenmore



"No, there isn't because young people, especially with records, go to an employer for a job. But, they look at the records and say, 'no, we can't use this guy; we can't trust him.' And now the guys who are really trying, can't get a job because of the recession. Makes it bad all over; it's just really bad. If a young guy goes out, and they don't have any money from their parents, and they can't get a job, they have to steal from stores and everything. That's your big reason for youth crime. There is no opportunity for young people."



Judy Lopez
1252 W. Wilson

"There is not enough work for us young kids either. Even my father can't get a job, and they won't let him on welfare either. He's got 11 kids to support and has almost run out of his money, and they won't let him have a job. My sister, she can't get a job either."

Robert Merrell
4448 N. Magnolia



"No, I just don't. There's too many kids on the street now for there to be opportunities for them to work and get out and do things. They wouldn't be out on the streets getting into all kinds of trouble."



Cleaster Johnson
4653 N. Broadway

"I don't think there's enough opportunities."

WELFARE RIGHTS

New Methods Devised to Kick People off Welfare

The Illinois Department of Public Aid is involved in a calculated effort to reduce the welfare rolls under the guise of getting rid of "fraud" and "cheaters." Giving credit to Governor Walker, they are constantly devising new methods to keep people off, and kick people off welfare. Often these methods clearly violate the state laws which regulate the welfare department. All of this comes down hardest on the people who are in the most need:

To get on welfare, everything you say must be proven by various documents, some of which take a long time to get (birth certificates, etc.) Many district offices, including the Uptown office, are refusing to give applications to people and simply turning them away, without even an interview to find out if they are eligible.

Sheila Hardin, Vicki Mercer, and Anne Ratajczyk are three young women under 18. They are all living on their own and have children or are expecting. When they went to the Uptown district office they were refused applications



Sheila Hardin and one of her two children.

because they were under 18. In recent discussions with Terrence Barcollough from the Community Relations office of the Illinois Department of Public Aid, staff workers at the 46th Ward Community Service Center were informed that *it is against the law as well as the written policy of the Illinois Department of Public Aid to deny any person an application when they request one.* So intake was forced to give Vicki Mercer, age 15, an application and appointment date for an interview.

Robert Howell is a brother with a family. He is partially disabled and trying to survive on ADCU. Last winter when there was no food in the house to feed the children and the food stamps had run out, he went to a daily pay company and worked one day.

Several months later he received a letter from the welfare office stating they had discovered that he worked one day and had not reported it. They gave him a form to be filled out by the daily pay company and to be returned to welfare within 10 days. The company had moved out of Uptown so Mr. Howell sent the form along with a note to the company's post office box. When his next check was late, he called welfare and they informed him he had been cut off for failing to get the form returned in time.

The caseworkers are always telling people about new pieces of information they need to get on or stay on welfare, but they don't assist clients in actually getting the information. The law says, "County departments and local governmental units shall render *all possible assistance* to applicants for financial aid and social services and in securing proof in support of the applications." (Chapter 23, Article XI, Paragraph 4 of the Illinois Revised Statutes). The present practice of nonassistance in getting information, clearly violates the intent of the law.

In August of this year most caseworkers in the county took part in a "work action," to protest the fact that since they had to spend so much time doing redeterminations they were unable to give each client's case the attention it needed. Redetermination is when they review your case, come out to see you, ask questions and fill out a lot of forms. The purpose is to find reasons to cut clients off of welfare. They do it every three months to every person who is on a public aid grant. Many people are cut off simply because they were not home when the caseworker came by, or their name wasn't on the mailbox as happened to Melvin Foote, a brother living on Sheridan Road.

The caseworkers supposedly won their demands in August, because they went back to work. But in reality nothing has changed. The quarterly redetermination process is going ahead full steam, and the caseworkers still don't have enough time to deal with the day to day problems that come up with their clients.□

ON THE JOB

"The Union Leadership is Selling Out" Local 34 Window Washers

In the past few years more and more rank and file workers have taken a hard look at the establishment, "fat-bureaucrat" leadership of their unions and started to organize among themselves for more militant unionism. The leaders of most of these rank and file movements have been Black workers, who have suffered the most and the longest under the white controlled AFL-CIO. But many white workers are now joining the fight to gain control of their own unions as they find a white crook will rip off and sell out white workers along with Black workers.

Workers in Local 34 Window Washers of the Service Employees International, have been doing investigation into their local's leadership. The rank and file proposed a \$1.80 per hour pay raise to union leadership towards pending contract negotiations, but word has slipped out through one member of the negotiating committee that "leadership" has proposed a 54 cent (7%) increase to the contractors.

The officers of the Local are Michael Rakozy, secretary-treasurer, Wally Washburn and Myron Pozieparko, business agents. Rakozy has been secretary-treasurer for the last six years, but was not elected! He was appointed by the previous secretary-treasurer who retired 30 days after his election.

Only two of these officers can be found in the



300 window washers are contractors, doing some of the most dangerous work.

office on any one day, and then only from 9:30 to 2:00. While all three receive annual salaries of \$14,000 a year, they manage to wear \$300.00 suits, spend \$20 to \$25 a day in the tavern and take vacations 3 or 4 times a year, 3 or 4 weeks at a time, to Hawaii, Florida, etc. The 1975 financial statement reveals \$11,800 expenditures for "other purposes". Later in the statement the same figure is given as "payroll tax remittance," meaning the bureaucrats' income taxes are paid out of general operating funds. Therefore, every April the bureaucrats get a tax refund of \$1,500 to \$2,000 which the Union has paid and which they keep for themselves.

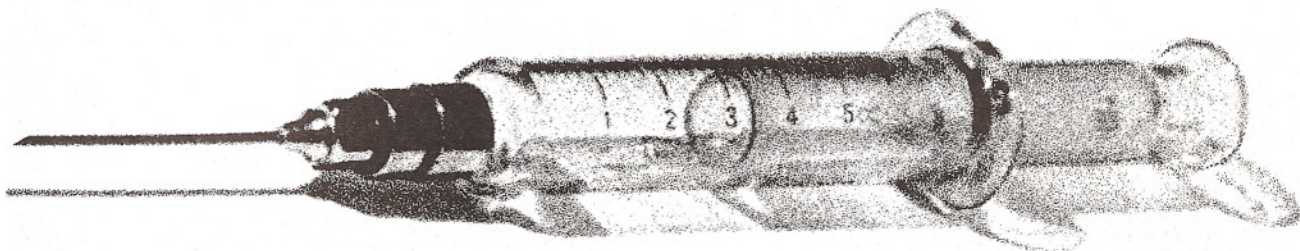
The 700 member local is the only window washers union in the Midwest, other than a local in Detroit. Three hundred are contractors working for private employers, doing some of the most dangerous work, while 400 are men employed at one building on a full-time basis or working for the Board of Education and the City of Chicago. In spite of these differences all 700 men vote on the contracts for the 300 contractors, leading to many complaints.

Union officials have consistently refused to fight to enforce stipulations of the contract. For example, one brother had worked for the same company for three years, but due to a "computer error" he did not receive his medical benefits when a member of his family was hospitalized. Union leaders refused to help, and many rank and file members say this is definitely not an isolated case.□

Heroin Withdrawal

Withdrawal from addiction to heroin is a simple and only sometimes a moderately painful process. Withdrawal is not the same as "kicking," as many who withdraw go back to heroin again and again. But to kick you have to withdraw first.

It is impossible for the addict using heroin purchased on the street to judge doses accurately, because you don't know what you're getting, but anyone using a small dose for less than a month may, if he goes "cold turkey," get by with no symptoms at all. Moderate doses produce moderate symptoms and only for about three or four days. If you have worked your way up to high doses for a long time, the symptoms produced may be severe and may last up to seven or ten days.



Nothing happens for the first eight to sixteen hours of abstinence (not taking any) except possibly some slight drowsiness. In twenty-four hours this is followed by restlessness, yawning, sweating, nasal congestion, and tearing of the eyes. After a day or so the restlessness becomes more severe, the characteristic goose flesh appears and uncomfortable muscle twitching is a problem. There is a loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, insomnia (sleeplessness) and severe aching muscles in the arms and legs.

The symptoms reach the maximum intensity about forty-eight hours after withdrawal, stay at this level for another day or so, and then gradually slack off during the next week. The worst symptoms are gone in ten days.

The symptoms should be treated sympathetically and patiently with aspirin, fluids, mild sedatives or tranquilizers and firm but friendly reassurance. Hospitalization is often necessary in severe cases.

After the first few days of withdrawal from heroin the addict is liable to be weak, irritable and unable to sleep well. This may last for months. He will also face medical problems that developed but were easily ignored while shooting: bad teeth, ulcers, bronchitis, etc. He should get medical treatment for these problems to ease the load he is carrying.

The medical effects of heroin are constant constipation, loss of sexual drive, weight loss and poor nutrition. These should fade in a fairly short time.

But the most difficult part of kicking heroin, the environment, is the most difficult for most of us to change. After withdrawal, faced with unemployment, bad schools, police harassment and other aspects of oppression, it is hard to convince yourself that kicking is worthwhile. After withdrawal, a person needs a well structured life, with clear goals and purposes, and this is difficult to find.

There are some "therapeutic communities" the ex-addict can sign into for three months or more,

where a disciplined, structured daily routine make kicking easier. Some of these are good; some are run by people who have read too many books or gotten carried away with their individual power in the community. Most of us still have to come back to the street sometime.

If it is possible, withdrawal should be done in a changed environment, free of stress and strain and away from addicts and pushers, at least for a couple of weeks. If that is not possible, withdrawal is still not too painful a process, less painful than a broken leg or a bad case of flu. But the person who has just withdrawn should be encouraged by friends not to give up kicking heroin if they start shooting again after withdrawal. Many feel that if they start shooting again after withdrawal then they can't ever kick. Not true. You may have to withdraw many times, and no one, in our present oppressive environment, ever becomes free of the desire to shoot heroin again. □

LEGAL RIGHTS

Juvenile Rights

Everyone has the right to remain silent, including juveniles. By law, the only information you are required to tell the police when arrested is your name, your date of birth, your address and the name of your parents. Everything else you say may and probably will be used against you at a later date.

You also have the right to have someone with you, at all times, while you are being questioned. This can be your parents, older sister or brother, attorney or any adult friend. Often when a juvenile is arrested, the police will not notify the parents until they have asked questions and filled out their forms and reports. Politely insist that they call your parents or send a car out to their home as soon as possible after you've been arrested.

Remember not to sign anything at all. There is nothing in a police arrest procedure or report

forms that you as a juvenile must sign. You also have the right to immediate medical attention. If by chance, you have an injury, you have the right to be taken to a hospital and receive treatment.

There are many things that will be happening to you while you are at the police station and at first it might seem a bit confusing and even scary. Just remember these rights. Keep your ears open. Listen to what's happening to you. There's a very good possibility that you can pick up some information about your arrest that you may be able to use in your defense.

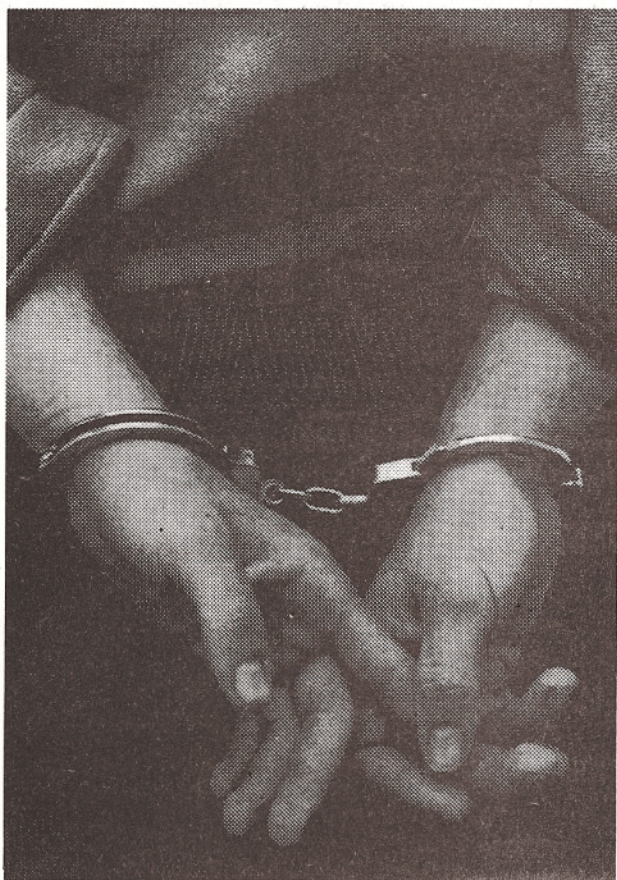
If you need assistance after you have been arrested and released call the 46th Ward Community Service Center at 472-1031. □

TENANTS' RIGHTS

Read Before You Sign

When people ask about tenants' rights it's always hard to give them a straight answer. Most of the rights that exist require lawyers, judges, or community organizations to make sure they are enforced at all. This is a very bad situation that gives landlords an upper hand almost every time. Now the Chicago Real Estate Board, (CREB) has published a new lease which they ask landlords to use and which they advertise as being good for tenants. The Real Estate Board exists to watch out for interests of landlords. They lobby in Springfield for stricter laws, they take judges, legislators, city councilmen and newspaper writers out to lunch to gain their support. They have a whole staff of lawyers who do nothing but figure out new ways to put the screws on tenants.

Over the past 4 or 5 years, oppressed people fighting through the courts have forced certain housing laws to change in their favor, making it possible to withhold rent for repairs, etc. Recently the CREB attempted to get a law through the state legislature which would have wiped out these gains. The law never passed, but was temporarily tabled. Now the CREB has come out with a new lease which is the same as the law they wanted.



The new lease specifies:

1. The landlord is not responsible for the condition of the apartment when he rents it, but the tenant must state that he/she believes the apartment to be in good condition.

2. Verbal promises by the landlord that he will make repairs are not binding.

3. The landlord can decide not to do even the most necessary repairs; the tenant can cancel the lease but must pay the full rent.

4. The landlord can fine the tenant if the rent is late by a day or two.

5. The landlord doesn't have to go through court to evict a tenant; he can put you on the street on his own.

6. If the tenant stays away from the apartment for ten days taking what the landlord considers to be a substantial portion of his belongings, the landlord can consider the apartment vacated if the rent is paid up.

7. The tenant must continue to pay rent even if the apartment is made unlivable by fire, flood or similar disaster, and cannot collect any insurance even if part of the insurance payment is for loss of use of the apartment.

8. The landlord will not be liable (responsible) to the tenant for injury or property damage to the tenant caused by faults in the building or in

its operation (bursting pipes, steam or sewer damage, accidents or other occurrences that are the fault of the landlord).

These are only a few of the things that are included in this new lease. It has 26 paragraphs and 15 rules for tenants to follow.

The real purpose of a lease, like any contract, is to protect both parties from the irresponsibility of the other. This lease does not meet this requirement. In fact it does the opposite. It gives the landlord a free hand to do all the dirty things he has wanted to do anyway and offers no protection to the tenant.

The main thing to remember is that it's like buying a used car. It may look like a good deal, but you better examine it closely, because beneath the slick cover is a whole lot of headaches and pains. You can change a lease. Ask a lawyer to look at it before signing, or bring it by the Service Center for an opinion. If you have already signed one and feel the noose around your neck and the rope in the landlord's hand, contact the Service Center, where attorneys have been studying the new lease to develop methods to fight it. □

SLUMLORD OF THE MONTH

William Strickland

Every group of people has a hero or heroes, whom they look to as an example, someone they would like to model their own lives after. Movie actors, baseball players, politicians are all manufactured (by the newspapers, TV, etc.) as symbols for us. If the slumlords in Uptown have such a hero, it must be Bill Strickland. Here is a guy who parlayed a few smarts, a lot of nerve and not an ounce of human decency into a small empire and created untold suffering for thousands of families in the process.

Strickland, like most speculators, saw a good thing and got in on it. In this case the good thing happened to be the junior college at Racine and Wilson, and the ease with which someone with a good lawyer and a few dollars can manipulate the building department and the building courts.

In the mid 1960s, Strickland fell in with a



"He created untold suffering for thousands of families."

couple of characters named Marvin Wimberly and Lorraine Bernice. Wimberly and Bernice are older now and they have slowed down quite a bit, but in their prime, they ran many of the raunchiest buildings on the northside. Their last big play was when they burnt their 40 unit building at Broadway and Gordon Terrace only a few months after they had taken out a big fire insurance policy.

With a complicated set of relationships between them (designed to hide and protect them from legal responsibility for their buildings) Strickland, Bernice and Wimberly quickly took over a bunch of buildings in the community—4047 Sheridan Road, 4518-20 N. Racine, 4454 Magnolia, 4413 N. Racine, and more farther north. Their buildings became famous because of their wretched conditions and the terror and intimidation they used in collecting rents and silencing complaints. They made a lot of money collecting rents, banking the money, using one property as collateral to get hold of others.

When Oscar Shabat (Mayor Daley's concrete thumb) decided to build a new junior college at Racine and Wilson, he needed someone to help him get 1,200 families who were living there out of the way. Bill Strickland was the right man for the job. Not unused to threats, violence and fear in pushing oppressed people around, Strickland "helped" many families move whether or not they wanted to. And when some families refused, he made sure enough buildings were burnt so they had no choice.

With the money he made from his slum properties and the money he got from Shabat for doing the dirty work, Strickland bought some equipment and went into the demolition business—more profit in tearing them down than renting them out. Today, Strickland only has a few buildings left. Some have been demolished, others turned over to his flunky Tom McCormick. Incidentally, the building at 4047 N. Kenmore, one of McCormick's, hasn't had any gas-heat-hot water since August, and just two weeks ago every tenant (rent paid or not) was physically evicted in 72 hours.

Strickland sounds like a typical slumlord, but what makes him so special? The building he owns at 4522-26 N. Racine stands as a monument to him. It has twenty apartments. Every three months the gas or electricity is turned off for a couple of days because he hasn't paid his bills. Light sockets have been known to fall out of the ceilings. One woman reported sewer water in her bath tub (caused by faulty plumbing) for over



"...Just waiting to tear it down because the land is valuable."

two months. The tenants stopped asking for repairs to be made, when they realized that Strickland doesn't pay anyone to work for him to make repairs, and that 9 months of promises to fix a leaky sink or re-plaster a hole in the wall was just a trick to keep the rent coming in. The building is directly across the street from the new college, and Strickland's real reason (he'll tell you if you ask him) for holding onto the building is that he knows the land is valuable and very soon someone is going to offer him a good price for it. He's just waiting to tear it down and that's why he won't put a penny into it.

He's been pushing people around so long, that he really thinks of himself as a tough guy. He drives his new Lincoln around the neighborhood and keeps an apartment in one of his slum buildings just so he can stay on top of the situations. He buys the building inspector so he gives a good report in court and over a 12 or 18 month period the building falls into such bad shape, that it has to be demolished and then he's got a valuable piece of land without tenants to worry about. William Strickland is a guncil, a thug, a jerk for the developers. He has been an active force in the destruction of our community for almost ten years now. The building at Magnolia and Sunnyside is half empty, the building at 4047 N. Sheridan is an empty lot, the building at 4522 N. Racine probably won't stand too much longer either. And Strickland will move back to his house in Des Plaines, having stolen or extorted thousands and thousands of dollars off an already poor community. You can't teach an old dog new tricks, but Strickland is one dog who taught us a lot of lessons. □

POLICE WATCH

Community Outraged by 20th District Police

Complaints of unresponsiveness, insensitivity, brutality and illegal behavior continued to mount up against Chicago's 20th district police. The district station, located on Foster Avenue and headed by Commander Kernan, has been under strong criticism for the last two months for its refusal to send a spokesman to answer questions about its controversial "beat representative program" to local community meetings here. The secrecy of the beat representative program, called by many a "snitch" program which places special, biased, friends of the police department in positions not accountable to the community, has added to the sense of outrage against 20th district attitudes and behavior.

On the evening of Tuesday, October 21st, a young white brother from the community was stopped by two police officers for a possible curfew violation. Robert De Mari, who is Black, approached the officers and explained that he was responsible for the boy and would take him home to his family, making it unnecessary to take him in to the station. The police officers refused and spewed out several vile, racial insults to Mr. De Mari. An argument ensued and the officers knocked De Mari to the ground. While he was on the ground they proceeded to beat him, kicking him in the face and chest until he was covered with blood, in full view of nearly a hundred

community residents who angrily voiced their protests to the police actions.

Thirteen squad cars quickly arrived on the scene as over 25 officers moved through the crowd pushing and shoving people around. Most brutal in the beating of De Mari was officer Culver. When Sister Patricia Jane (a nun of St. Francis of Assissi) attempted to get Culver's badge number he insulted her, spit at her and then arrested her, declaring "I beat him, so what, I'm glad I did it; what are you going to do about it?"

A petition has begun to be circulated by community residents to have Officer Culver removed from duty in Uptown immediately and ultimately relieved of police duty altogether.

Four days before, on October 17th, 20th district police participated in a completely illegal eviction at 4756 N. Malden. Mrs. Rosemay Musk and her children had been living in the third floor apartment of this building for three months, paying rent. The landlord had refused to give them rent receipts using the excuse each time that he did not have a pencil. The landlord, a Mr. Demos, called the police from the 20th district asking them to evict the family. Sergeant Green (badge #1129) and officers Statler (#12607) and Schwartz (#8264) responded to the call and sided with the landlord. They told Mrs. Musk that she was trespassing and, after throwing her out of the building, helped the landlord throw her belongings out. Community groups have noted that this was in clear violation of a police department policy which states that police have no jurisdiction in landlord-tenant relations, a civil matter, and at any rate are never the agents of even legally ordered court evictions. These evictions can be carried out only by Cook County Sheriff's police.



Complaints of unresponsiveness, brutality and illegal behavior mount up against Chicago's 20th district police.

Among many similar complaints against the 20th district a significant number have come from the 4600 and 4700 blocks of N. Winthrop and N. Kenmore. Residents there say that police harassment and abuse have accelerated by terrifying proportions since several developers announced their intention to clear much of the low-income housing out in this area for a parking lot and possible shopping center. Residents feel that the strong community resistance to any more destruction of low-income housing has brought the police to concentrate harassment on their area, driving out those who refuse to sell and/or move from rented apartments.

Kernan, the 20th district commander, is the same man who proclaimed several months ago at an open meeting in the community that the "Miranda decision" was an obstacle for police in getting convictions. The Miranda decision is a Supreme Court ruling that protects the right of arrested persons to remain silent. Protection, many say, against the police practice of beating confessions out of suspects. □



Sister Mary Nord

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Curfew Law Ruled Unconstitutional by State Appellate Court

A state appellate court recently ruled that Illinois curfew law for young people is unconstitutional. The decision is being appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court and the law remains on the books pending the higher court ruling.

The second district appellate court panel in Elgin ruled the curfew law violates juveniles' First Amendment right to freedom of movement. According to state law persons under 18 must be off the streets by midnight on weekends and 11 p.m. on weekdays unless accompanied by an adult.

Although judges in Cook County and other Illinois counties could cite the appeals court ruling and dismiss curfew cases, they are not bound to follow the lower court decision until a ruling is made by the state supreme court. □

Bittersweet "Victory" in Soto Brothers Slaying

With tears in her eyes, Mrs. Sadie Soto recently talked with a sympathetic reporter from the *Sun-Times* concerning the tragic 1969 Chicago police murder of two of her sons, John, 16, and Michael, 20, within five days of each other. She spoke, too, of her bitter victory over the city of Chicago in the lawsuit which followed.

On October 5, 1969, John Soto was walking down a street on the Westside of Chicago when he was stopped by the police a few blocks from his home. Patrolman Thomas Nolan later testified that the 16-year-old youth lunged for his gun, causing the revolver to discharge and fatally wounding Brother Soto. Although no explanation was ever given for the cop's gun having been drawn, a coroner's jury ruled the death "justifiable homicide."

Five days later, on October 10, Army Sgt. Michael Soto, home on leave to attend his brother's funeral, was shot and killed by Chicago patrol officer Robert Rahn as he returned from the Mt. Carmel cemetery gravesite. As news of



John Soto

the shooting death of Michael Soto filtered through the close-knit neighborhood, an angry crowd gathered at Lake and Hoyne Streets. Shots were fired. Chicago police scattered under the Lake Street "L" tracks, dodging the bullets from the outraged crowd and from the tenants of the 12-story Henry Horner Housing Projects building on the corner. When the shooting ended, 10 police lay wounded, along with a young, innocent 12-year-old sister who lived in the projects. The death of Michael Soto was also ruled to be "justifiable homicide."

Almost five years later, on April 25, 1974, the city of Chicago, quietly and without fanfare, agreed to pay Mrs. Sadie Soto \$50,000 in damages for the wrongful deaths of her two sons. The out-of-court settlement — \$5,000 for the shooting of Michael and \$45,000 for the death of John — resolved \$2.2 million in lawsuits Mrs. Soto had filed against the city. After all the court fees and costs were paid, the Soto family received slightly less than \$25,000.

The city obviously wanted a quiet settlement to the case, in spite of the "justifiable homicide" rulings. Counsel for the city, attorney Timothy O'Hara, provided a blunt explanation: "... You can never predict what a jury will do. They might decide to make this woman rich."

Another explanation is that the city is believed

to have destroyed or "lost" the gun the police said they took from Michael Soto, thus throwing the "justifiability" of the shooting into doubt.

Robert Soto, a brother of the victims, who presently lives apart from the rest of the family, makes this sad comment: "One of my brothers has not been right since then. He's on drugs, and he's not been straight ever since then. My sister ain't been the same, and neither has my mother." □

Reprinted from "The Black Panther"

FIGHTING CITY HALL

City Council Abolishes Civil Service

The City Council voted on October 24, 1975 to abolish the Chicago Civil Service Commission and replace it with a Department of Personnel. The new department will be administered by the Director of Personnel (appointed by the mayor with council approval) and a five member board. Engineered by Mayor Daley, the law becomes effective January 1, 1976 and will affect 40,000 city employees. Critics charge that the plan raises the spectre of an even more powerful patronage army for the mayor and his machine (see KEEP STRONG, Oct., 1975).

Three independent aldermen, Dick Simpson (44th), William Cousins, Jr. (8th) and Martin Oberman (43rd), who cast the 3 lone votes against the plan, proposed amendments which would provide protections and safeguards not included in the original bill. All these amendments were rejected.

In addition, Alderman Cousins has charged that Daley's plan will limit the number of Black and other minority people hired by the city. He stated that even though civil service has been used as a tool against Black people and other minorities because so many civil service tests are "... biased against minorities," that at least, under the old plan, an applicant who scored highest had the right to demand the job. The new system eliminates the test scoring procedure and only notes whether an applicant passes or fails. Those who pass are classified as excellent,

well-qualified or qualified. "Applicants would be completely at the mercy of the mayor and the board," added Cousins.

Cousins' charges are confirmed by data published last year by *The Chicago Reporter* (Sept., 1974) which shows that although Black people and Latinos made up 40.1% of the city's population in 1970, they comprised only 24.7% of the city's full-time employees. Both minorities and women (who made up 16% of the city's work force) were concentrated in low-paying city departments such as health and sanitariums and jobs such as clerical workers, para-professionals and service workers. Data for some departments such as the Chicago Public Library and Department of Human Resources is not even available to the public due to the way the city reports information to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. □

Alderman Urges Public Access to City Records

The Illinois House Executive Committee has been holding public hearings in Chicago on several "freedom of information" and "public right to know" bills which will be voted on soon by the State Legislature.

Speaking at the hearings, Alderman Dick Simpson (44th ward) urged the legislature to adopt the bill which would enact the provisions of a local freedom of information ordinance rejected in May by the City Council. Simpson described the situation in Chicago as "terrible," stating that the city compiles and computerizes a wealth of information on the police, housing conditions, and expenditure of funds, but that the content of these computers is known only to the Mayor and his aides. Occasionally, elected officials and newsmen obtain records from the building department or the Comptroller's office (which keeps all receipts of how the city spends its money) but they are forced to hand copy the information. Studies done for the city by private consultants are considered "special reports" to the mayor who decides whether or not to make them public.

Under the proposed Freedom of Information Ordinance the city would require all departments

and agencies to publish an index of all existing public records, reports, etc. and procedures of how to obtain them. City departments would be required to answer requests for information within 3 days or state in writing why not. The department's xerox machines would be available to the public to copy information.

Fines of up to \$300 for the first offense and 6 months in jail for more than 3 violations in 6 months, would be levied against city officials who violate the law. The act would still exempt certain records from the public. These include personal information in personnel files and police "investigative" files.



Simpson — "The situation in Chicago is terrible."

In similar efforts, several community organizations filed suit against the Chicago Building Department last February, demanding that building inspection records be open to any person or group who shows "legitimate" interest. According to Fred Lieb, Legal Aid attorney for the suit, the building department only allows elected officials, newsmen, owners and "authorized agents of owners" access to the records. This violates the Illinois Revised Statutes which state that public records may be made available to the public at "reasonable" times, and that the public has the right to reproduce them under governmental supervision. A decision is expected soon.

Freedom of Information, is another weapon in the struggle for stable communities and for community control of institutions. □

EDUCATION

Chicago: Worst Record on Suspensions

The American Friends Service Committee has recently disclosed information about the high suspension rate in the Chicago schools, and has begun to contact other organizations to initiate community action.

According to information provided by the American Friends, Chicago schools have the worst record in the country on suspensions. They note that "students who have been suspended more than once often fall behind in their work, and eventually drop out completely."

In the 1973-74 year alone, approximately 30,000 students were suspended from the Chicago public school system. Many schools have no set discipline codes, so that teachers and principals are free to punish students at will. Some board members have praised schools for

this practice, according to American Friends information. In addition, this practice undercuts the policy urged by the federal government's Education Office Division on Civil Rights that school boards take steps to insure that suspension of a student *only* be used as a last resort.

One community organization pointed out that many teachers who don't teach adequately, or who are unresponsive to their students' needs cause students to lose interest in their schools. The youth are suspended and forced into the streets where they run into larger problems with the police, they say. They cite the fact that over 80% of the youth under supervision of youth services have been suspended or expelled from school, to support these conclusions.

As a result of recent Supreme Court decisions, the Board of Education has adopted new procedures for suspension and expulsion from school. The suspended student must receive oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and can bring in a third party (parent, friend, school staff member, etc.) to an informal meeting in the case of suspension or a formal hearing in the case of expulsion. The American Friends Service Committee is concerned that these guidelines "which insure students some due process rights are unknown by many community groups."

This quiz by the American Friends Service Committee has key facts on school suspensions.

1. Which of the following cities has the highest suspension rates?
 - a. New York
 - b. Philadelphia
 - c. Boston
 - d. Chicago
 - e. Detroit
2. Approximately how many students were suspended from the Chicago schools during the 1973-1974 school year?
 - a. less than 10,000
 - b. 10,000 - 15,000
 - c. 20,000
 - d. over 20,000
 - e. approximately 30,000
3. Students have been suspended from the Chicago school system for which of the following causes: (choose any number)
 - a. truancy
 - b. insubordination
 - c. weapons and drugs
 - d. wearing sunglasses
 - e. wearing hats in class
 - f. fighting
4. HEW's Office of Civil Rights has urged that school districts take steps to insure that suspension **ONLY** be used as a last resort, that "alternative measures prior to suspension . . . should be tried by the district." List the alternatives to suspension that you know are being used in the Chicago schools:

Answers: 1.-d, 2.-e, 3.-all of the above, 4.-?

CHARLIE TOWN

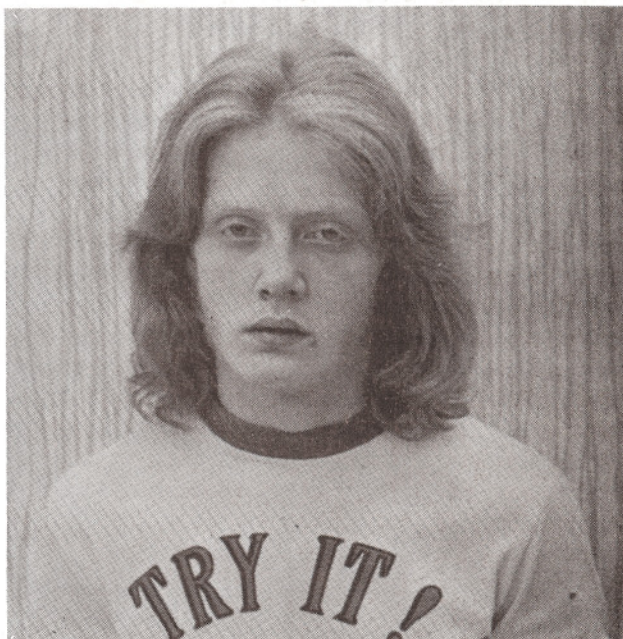
St. Charles Institution for Boys, Department of Corrections, Juveniles is an all boys' youth institution in northeastern Illinois. Its population runs anywhere from 450 to 600 inmates mainly from the Chicago area. There are 12 cottages on the grounds, very similar to army barracks, a hospital and administration building — all surrounded by huge cornfields and barbed wire-topped fences. The cottages are divided up by age and work assignment with the largest number of youth there being between 15-17 years old. There are 1-2 guards present at all times in the cottages as well as a husband and wife social worker team from early morning 'til lights out.

The following is the personal account of Chip Wood, a seventeen year old brother from Uptown, who spent two years at St. Charles. He talks of what his feelings were then, and how he feels St. Charles (Charlie Town) affected his life.

"When I first got to St. Charles, I was sent to see the psychiatrist who is basically in charge of giving out paroles and determining the length of stay. On my record there was reference to a murder charge that had happened when a man was assaulting my mother and all charges were dropped against me. The doctor asked me if I was glad the man had died and I responded yes because the man was trying to hurt my mother. The psychiatrist said, 'All right, you can go back to the cottage.' One question, then back. When I got back to the cottage, the cottage father told I'd gotten a six month Sit or Hold because I said I wasn't sorry the man died. He also told me next time I see the psychiatrist I should tell him I'm sorry.

"Six months later when I went back to the psychiatrist he asked the question about the murder again and 'if I was glad.' I responded, 'No, I wasn't.' He sent me back to the cottage and again gave me a six month Sit (Hold). His reasons were he felt I wasn't sincere. This is when I felt there was nothing there for me and I started running. The hardest part of escaping was we had no shoes or jackets and coats.

"When we came in each day from classes or



Chip Wood

work we had to check our shoes and coats and wear tee shirts and bedroom slippers called sneaks. It was hard to get out of the cottage but not impossible. Sometimes we could invent a reason to go outside and keep going or break out a window. Once outside the cottage we had to climb a high barbed wire fence, then go through huge cornfields all around the place and men in jeeps with spotlights patrolling the area. All around the area there were signs posted saying, 'Do not pick up any hitchhikers.'

"I once ran the wrong way and instead of heading north ended up in East St. Louis. It's kind of funny the effort the kids put into getting out of the place. One friend of mine left on the day before Christmas with no shoes or shirt in the middle of a snowstorm and made it back to Chicago the next day. The same boy was killed while escaping a second time. The state police forced his car off the road causing an accident, killing him and severely scaring the boy who was with him. Kids just kept running because they felt there was nothing being done for them. They would go to the board or the psychiatrist and get six month Holds, time after time, and really not know what for.



"St. Charles doesn't offer you any kind of program for change."

"Every time I came up for a furlough or a parole hearing the guards would increase their harassment, trying to get me to lose my temper and swing on them or run and violate any of the rules they had so they could take away my pass or give me a bad report to the board. If you violated a rule or ran, the punishment was always the Box. These were 18 small bare rooms above the hospital. The Boxes were always filled and the food was terrible most of the time. The guards would spit in the food as they passed it through the door to you. They would strip you completely naked and throw you in for anywhere from three days to two weeks depending on the conduct of other kids and if they needed the room.

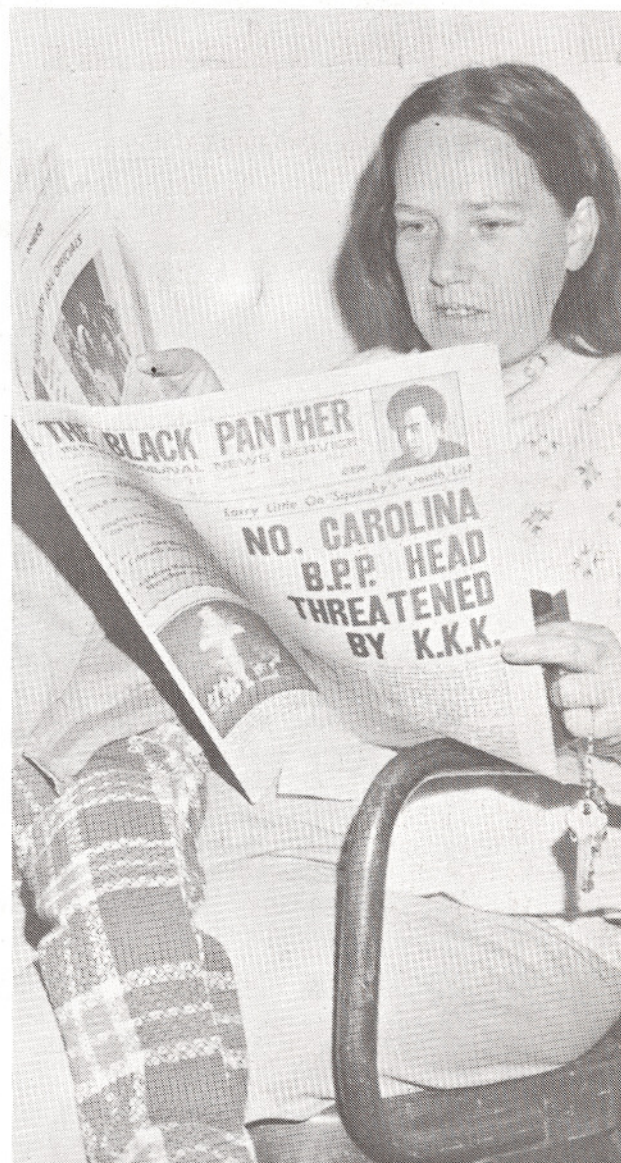
"Day to day boredom was my biggest problem; doing the same thing over and over again with no future. St. Charles doesn't offer you any kind of program for change. You can learn some skills like welding, car maintenance and school work, but when you get out the department can't place you in a job. So it's all for nothing because there aren't that many jobs you can find or employers willing to hire someone who's been sent up. With all the time on our hands, mostly people talked about how they got busted or what kind of crimes they'd pulled so it was a good place to learn how to rip off and with the way things are out here now there's not much else you can do." □

The Intercommunal Survival Committee, publishers of **KEEP STRONG**, have been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to white people, for over 5 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive whites is testimony to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and third world people, that to understand our own situation as whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our own communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

We strongly encourage you to subscribe to **THE BLACK PANTHER INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE**. Education is the first step to liberation.



ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

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What Is Behind The Neighborhood War On Crime

Recently a large group of residents from different communities, part of the Metropolitan Anti-Crime Coalition, confronted police Superintendent Rochford with the problems of crime in their neighborhoods. They angrily demanded that he "clean-up" certain "hot-spots" of crime that they had identified. Rochford was obviously pleased that the community coalition, which included some old community leaders who were known for their criticism of police brutality, was now demanding tougher police action. He summed up his answer to the groups in these words: "The criminal justice situation today is very complex and difficult . . . I think that, by and large, police brutality is a myth. Without security there can be no freedom. If we the police department accept your demands and your ways of dealing with the crime problem, you've got to be very sure that you'll stand behind them and us all the way."

The police department has responded with admitted enthusiasm and satisfaction to anti-crime group activities which include citizen groups calling the police when they see "suspicious characters" on certain corners, and taking large groups of people down to the courts each month to demand that judges set high bonds and give longer sentences to people accused of crime from the groups' respective areas. In fact, the police department has developed a community program, the "beat representative program," to aid in organizing the neighborhood war on crime. The program has police-appointed citizen representatives on each police beat with an organized network of block captains to inform police of what they consider to be criminal activity.

Crime, according to the latest *Chicago Tribune* poll, has become the number 1 issue in the neighborhood with double the amount of people concerned about crime as concerned about

unemployment. But, while agreeing that crime is a significant problem, many community leaders are suspicious of the neighborhood war on crime.

ISC coordinator Slim Coleman points out that the anti-crime groups in Uptown are predominantly white and middle class in an area where the majority of people are poor, a large percentage being Black people, Latinos and Native Americans. "These groups give vocal support to police violation of basic civil rights of any poor person, because they view any poor person as a potential criminal," says Coleman. "They represent property owners and fearful racists who would run any young or poor person from the community to protect their own property."

Interviews with organizers of the anti-crime groups show that their approach to the problem of crime is not spontaneous. Many are funded by the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, the Illinois branch of the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). This federal agency was established as a result of the Safe Streets and Crime Control Act of 1968. The agency was given new direction and billions of dollars of funding under the Nixon administration by prominent watergate figures like John Mitchell, Robert Mardian, Kleindienst and others. Their purpose was to develop a counter movement to the movement for social justice that was growing up quickly throughout the country.

In response to demands that the *causes* of crime — unemployment, overcrowded schools, insensitive police, etc. — be met with positive government action, the LEAA set about to develop the counter movement which states that the main cause of crime is the criminal. Crime can then only be combated by tougher police action.

The LEAA policies of the late 1960's and early



"In response to demands that the CAUSES of crime — unemployment, overcrowded schools, insensitive police, etc. — be met with positive government action, the LEAA set about to develop the counter movement which states that the main cause of crime is the criminal. Crime can then only be combated by tougher police action."

1970's have been carried on through the Ford administration. The President periodically states that "we must get tough on crime," and the head of the FBI admonishes (warns) us that "we must give up some of our basic freedoms if our other freedoms are to be maintained."

It appears then that the hand of "big brother" has been extended with plenty of money in it to hungry and frustrated community organizers, in order to get them to support the development of a police apparatus unchecked by citizen group protests against the violation of basic human rights. Groups and some community leaders formerly concerned with the causes of crime and frustrated in their struggle, have found that they can be funded to help police fight "the criminal"

These older groups have been joined by new groups with paid organizers in communities where white property owners fear changes taking place as poor whites, Latinos and Black people are moved out of their own communities by urban renewal and seek housing elsewhere.

The LEAA has been successful, at least in some communities, in creating such a change of opinion among local groups that the low rate of convictions in Cook County courts is automatically blamed on the court system. In a recent Metropolitan Anti-Crime Coalition report, publicized in the *Chicago Tribune*, no consideration was given to the possibility that the failure of the courts to get a conviction was a result of the police arresting the wrong person. □

Broadway Triangle Under Siege

Developers Attack Uptown

The real estate developers' "war on poor people" in Uptown was at least partially exposed last month as three separate battlegrounds emerged in what is becoming known as the Broadway Triangle — the land and the housing between Broadway, Clarendon and Lawrence Avenue. Whatever doubts community residents had about the planned nature of the conspiracy between the city and big developers to run low-income families from the community, as they have been run out of Clark St., Old Town, Lincoln Park and Lakeview, the community as a whole is now certain that such a conspiracy exists.

The center of the fight over the Broadway controversy is a project to be developed by William Thompson and his big money backers. Thompson, ex-son-in-law of the mayor, has already demolished housing on over 4 acres of land just south of Montrose. In the last month he

acquired buildings along Broadway all the way south of Buena and began immediately to evict the tenants.

A suit was filed in federal court on October 8th on behalf of nine residents of the Broadway triangle area. The suit is being coordinated by the 46th Ward Community Service Center. Thompson, his backers, Daley and the city council are charged with violating existing government policy to develop low and moderate cost housing. (The development is in a Model Cities area.) The suit states that the development violates the constitution by discriminating against the Black and Latino families who are being cleared out of the racially mixed area.

Just south of the Thompson development, American Hospital (now called Thorek Medical Center) announced its plans to build a new



The real estate developers' "War on poor people" in Uptown.

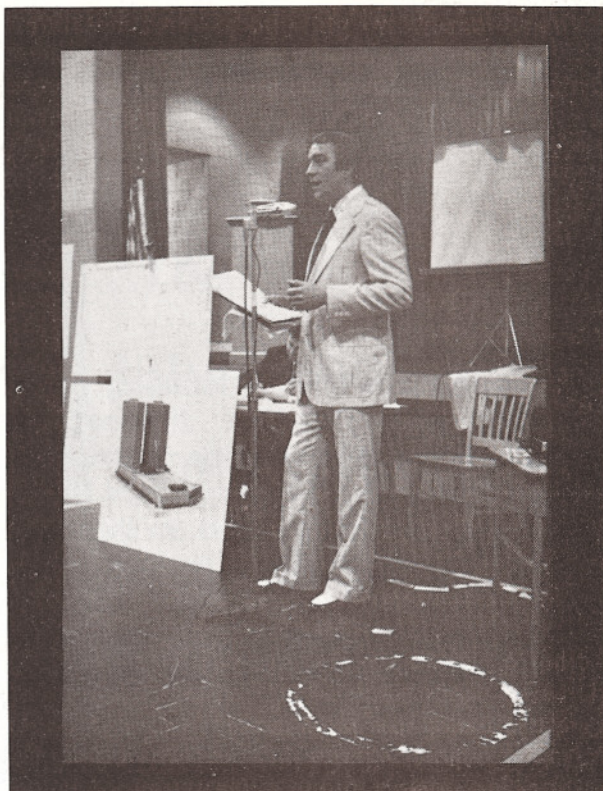


An angry community will not accept the destruction of any more low-income housing.

addition. At the hospital's public meeting community residents exposed the large land holdings of the hospital in the entire southern sector of the Broadway triangle. They demanded that hospital spokespersons reveal their future plans for the whole area before the community would give approval to any new construction.

Directly north of the Thompson project, there is a plan to tear down all the housing on the 4600 block of Winthrop and replace it with a parking lot for commercial use. A public meeting about this plan was held at the Peoples' Church, 941 W. Lawrence Avenue, on October 16th. The meeting was chaired by Peter Tomase. Chairman of the housing committee of the Model Cities' Council, machine precinct captain and real estate speculator.

A member of the chamber of commerce presented a proposal to demolish the houses on Winthrop Street to build a parking lot which he claimed was needed for commercial development. Some of the families have lived in and owned their homes on this block for nearly 50 years. Tomase started the meeting a half hour ahead of the announced time to avoid community protest. Then he claimed he had assurances from CHA that public housing would be built in the area for the residents to move into.



Bill Thompson sued by the community in federal court.

In spite of chairman Tomase's attempt to "rule out" discussion, an angry community made it clear that they would not accept the destruction of any more low-income housing. No one was fooled by the empty promise of replacement housing. "We have been through all that before," said one resident. Families who lived in the predominantly white 4700 block of Kenmore announced that they supported the Black families on the 4600 block of Winthrop in their fight to keep their homes. "If they go, we're next," they said.

After presenting a motion that had been put on the floor before the majority of people got to the meeting, Tomase was confronted by the anger that only people who have been tricked too many times can show. An intimidated Tomase fled hurriedly from the hall. With the meeting back in the hands of the community it was decided that a determined effort must continue to be made to "save Winthrop Street."

The combination of legal actions and community protests is building into a movement to block the powerful development interests that are virtually attacking Uptown. The future of the entire community, say many observers, may depend on the outcome of the fight over the triangle. □

Cha-cha Jimenez on Youth

In preparation for this issue of the magazine, KEEP STRONG did an extensive interview with Cha-Cha Jimenez, General Secretary of the Young Lords Organization and popular community leader, on the problems facing young people in our community. What appears here are quotes from the two hour interview in which Jimenez commented on the causes of so-called street gang activity and the kinds of programs for youth that should be developed.

"We felt there was a great potential there with the youth and when we first organized the YLO into a political group, we kept the name "Young Lords" in order to relate to them . . .

"Our main objective at that time was to stop urban renewal from moving, not only Latinos, but other poor people from our community . . . We saw that the same thing was happening in other parts of the city. It was a city-wide program coming directly from Mayor Daley's office . . . We felt by organizing the youth, if we could stop them from fighting each other, they could begin to help change their own neighborhoods, their own communities . . .

"There was unity among the Latinos in the early sixties, because of the fact that we were being pushed from the Latino community, the Clark St. area, into the Lincoln Park community which was an all-white community . . .

"We (The YLO) saw that being pushed there wasn't really the fault of the poor whites who were living in that area. Or it wasn't really our fault. The whites felt threatened by us. We were 'taking over "their" area.' We felt, 'We're sorry we're here; you know it wasn't our fault that we're here, but we are here, and we want to live here, and we don't want our windows broken or we don't want to be chased down the street.' It (the street gang) was formed more or less as protection against white youth at that time . . .

"We saw that the gangs in 1969 were fighting basically for the same thing. They were being pushed from one neighborhood to another by the city. And they were defending certain territory or 'turf' as it's called. We felt the need to really build some kind of unity . . .

"Some people ask the question, 'What's the conflict between different groups?' and they tend to deal with the effects of it. They say, 'The conflict is because this guy took a sweater that belonged to one group, and the other group came and started fighting over that sweater . . .' But if we can find out how it started, we can find out how to deal with it . . .



“The youth are the future leaders of our community and they need to play a very important part in decision making. .”

“I think in this city the urban renewal program played a very important role in the development of gangs and I am speaking from personal experience . . .

“Today there are no mass programs in the city for youth, but the city is responsible to a certain degree in turning social clubs into street gangs. And I feel that it's this city's and the politicians' of this city and the politicians' of this country responsibility to solve the gang situation. And it is never going to be solved unless some type of programs are geared towards the youth . . .

“Basically we need to put some money into working with the youth organizations. We need to understand there are no jobs so that there's got to be ways for them to make enough money to live on. With no money they have to be involved in some type of drug sales or some way to hustle money, because their families don't have any money. They have to learn to survive out here so that they start dealing drugs, and that's really the only 'program' out here at this time . . .

“We need a program with entertainment and recreation. The youth in our communities are not involved in sports as the youth of other countries, and I think we need some type of program in that direction . . .

“And the other program — the program of identity. I think that the youth can change. They are the future leaders of our community and they need to play a very important part in decision-making . . .”□

Hampton Suit To Go To Trial In December

The multi-million dollar suit against the city, state and federal governments on behalf of the family of Fred Hampton and the survivors of the December 4th, 1969 police raid will go to trial on December 1st, Judge Perry announced last month. The beginning of the trial has been put off by long arguments over pre-trial motions in which attorneys for the Hampton family contend that Judge Perry has obstructed them from gaining information relevant to the suit. They charge that a cover-up of the federal role in the murder of Fred Hampton still continues. The following is an excerpt from SEARCH AND DESTROY: A report by the Commission of Inquiry into the Black Panthers and the Police, by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and NAACP leader Roy Wilkins.

"The early dawn stillness had been broken at about 4:45 a.m. by heavy gunfire, eighty rounds or more, which lasted over a period of ten minutes. When it stopped, two young men, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, were dead. Four other occupants of the premises, the Illinois Black Panther Party Headquarters, were seriously wounded. Two police officers were injured, one by glass, the other by a bullet in the leg.

"Of the total of perhaps one hundred shots fired that fatal night, probably one bullet was discharged by a Panther. It is possible that no Panther fired a shot, or that two or even three shots were fired by them. But it is highly unlikely that any Panther fired more than a single shot. The physical evidence does indicate that one shot was fired by them; and bullets fired inside a house make their mark.

"Fred Hampton may or may not have been drugged or asleep throughout the episode; one can never be sure. Still, the probability is that he was unconscious at the time of his death. Nor can we be positive whether he was shot in the head by a policeman standing in full view of his prostrate body or by blind police gunfire from

another room. But we must not weight the probabilities with our wishes. If Hampton never awakened, if he was murdered, it is better to know it. It tells us something we need to know.

"The accounts — including those of the police and survivors, the coroner's report, the ballistics and autopsy reports — are not entirely clear or consistent. Nor are the press reports, or the federal grand jury Report, or, indeed, this study. Clarity and consistency may occur principally in fiction.

"Some conclusions about the episode are reasonably clear, however.

1. Whatever their purpose, those officials responsible for planning the police action and some who directly participated acted with wanton disregard of human life and the legal rights of American citizens.

2. The search warrant for the premises, assuming it was legally supportable, could have been executed in a lawful manner with no significant risk to life.

3. The hour of the raid, the failure to give reasonable warning to the occupants, the overarming of the police, the wildly excessive use of gunfire, all were more suited to a wartime military commando raid than the service of a search warrant.

4. There can be no possible legal or factual justification for this police use of firearms. There was no 'shoot-out.' The police did virtually all, if not all, of the shooting and most of it blindly. If the one shot that can be attributed to a Panther was fired, and was fired first, it could not justify the more than eighty shots that were fired by the police. If any of these shots were fired in the mistaken belief that they were being fired in response to fire from the Panthers, that such a belief was entertained by police officers would evidence the inadequacy and consequent irresponsibility in planning and control of an operation involving the use of lethal force.



5. It is not safe to entrust enforcement of the laws to authorities who permit the use of a machine gun the way the Chicago police did during the episode.

6. Many statements made after the episode by participating police officers, such as that of Sergeant Groth that 'Our men had no choice but to return their fire,' are not credible.

7. State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan's statements that the police acting under his authority 'exercised good judgment, considerable restraint, and professional discipline,' and that 'The immediate, violent criminal reaction of the occupants in shooting at announced police officers emphasizes the extreme viciousness of the Black Panther Party,' render him unworthy of public trust.

8. The failure of the Chicago police and other state and local officials to employ basic inves-

tigative practices such as fingerprinting, preserving evidence, examining all firearms, sealing the premises, and examining and photographing the bodies before removing them, as well as gross errors on the part of these officials in ballistics, autopsy, and other examinations, are professionally inexcusable and can only undermine confidence in the competence and integrity of the police and the legal system.

9. The 'exclusive' account of the police action given by State's Attorney Hanrahan's office to the *Chicago Tribune*, and the filmed re-enactment of the episode by police for CBS-TV, demeaned public office, misinformed and prejudiced the public, and violated professional ethics.

10. Systems of justice — federal, state, and local — failed to do their duty to protect the lives and rights of citizens." □

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

BBP Leader Threatened by KKK

(Winston-Salem, N.C.) Larry Little, coordinator of the Black Panther Party Chapter here and national spokesperson for the JoAnne Little Defense Committee, told *The Black Panther* that he has been informed that his name was included on a list of individuals slated for assassination found in the apartment of Lynette A. (Squeaky) Fromme, in Sacramento, California, and that he had received threats on his life by Ku Klux Klan officials and others in North Carolina.

Fromme is the woman charged with an attempt on the life of Gerald Ford on September 5 in Sacramento. Sandra Good, Fromme's roommate, told the press following Fromme's arrest that an "International People's Court of Retribution" has marked for assassination "scores of business executives" whose firms damage the environment. How Larry Little's name appears on such a list raises questions in



Larry Little speaking in Uptown on Sept. 20, 1975.

the minds of many about who else was on the list and for what reasons.

Information that Larry Little's name was on the list came from the FBI office here as did the information that a local Dragon of the KKK, Carl Parker, had threatened to kill Larry. This was confirmed by Joe Grady, Grand Dragon of the KKK in North Carolina, who telephoned the Black Panther Party Headquarters here on May 24, to inform the Party that Parker is responsible for the threat.

On October 8th, another call to the Party office here, from FBI agent Zachery T. Lowe, informed the Party that the FBI had received information of additional threats on the life of Larry Little that did not come from the KKK, but from another group that he refused to identify.

At a news conference held recently, Larry Little reaffirmed his determination to continue his leadership of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the Black Panther Party and his work in defense of JoAnne Little.

At the height of these developments the Ku Klux Klan staged a rally in a field outside Winston-Salem at which a huge cross was burned, hot dogs, hamburgers, and KKK souvenirs were sold and a major pitch was made for new members. Local newspapers report that several klansmen at the rally brandished ice picks with KKK initials carved into the handles, as a demonstration of protest against the acquittal of JoAnne Little for the ice pick slaying of the racist jail guard, Clarence Allgood, who attempted to rape her. □

Excerpted from "The Black Panther"

Louisville – The Community Rallies For Civil Rights

(Louisville, Ky.) Organized right-wing terrorist groups issued new public calls for racist violence here last month. A so-called anti-busing meeting held at the VFW hall in October advocated recruiting and training white para-military forces to fight in the streets "with guerrilla warfare if necessary."

Meanwhile the all-white Fraternal Order of Police in Louisville issued a statement October 23rd stating they are absolutely against busing to desegregate the schools (which is the law they are sworn to uphold), and they will do everything within their powers to oppose it.

Intimidation, fear, and terror continue to be the tactics of pro-segregation forces. There has been sniping with pellet guns at some school buses carrying Black children to suburban schools. Cars have deliberately attempted to force school buses off the expressway. Many store owners have been told that if they do not put up anti-busing posters, their windows will be smashed, and some have. Bus drivers and their families have received threatening phone calls, as have many parents, Black and white, who are sending their children to school.

The pro-segregation groups must rely on these methods more and more as their school boycott has dwindled considerably among white families. Overall school attendance is only about 5% below normal.

A new, broad organization, Black Protective Parents, has been formed to insure the safety and well-being of the children. They have sent a delegation to Washington to testify about the situation their children face.

Progress in Education, a coalition of parent, community, church, civic, and other groups, held a major rally Saturday, October 11th, "To Honor the Courage of the Students of Louisville." Speakers, who included Rev. Kirby, President of the Kentucky SCLC, Fr. Flynn, Dave Simpson of People United, teachers, and Black and white students, spoke of the students' courage and emphasized common themes: "Stop segregation, stand up against racist violence, and stop the Ku Klux Klan."

Two special tributes were presented by Rev. Terry Davis, President of the Louisville Civil Liberties Union. One was "to the Black students of Louisville for their courage in the face of racist violence and intimidation." The second was to the Assistant Coach of Ballard High School's football team. On the first day of school, the team made a "special effort to welcome Black students and show friendship." Inspiring entertainment was provided by Pete Seeger and Rev. Frederick Douglas Kirkpatrick. The rally concluded with a march of nearly 1,000 people downtown to the courthouse.

A petition campaign has begun across the city.

The petition asks citizens to affirm that they are against racist violence and for the protection of the children. The petition concludes, "until a better alternative is implemented to assure equality in education, we're for busing." □

Miners & Wives Rally for Black Lung Benefits

(Washington, D.C.) Approximately 4,000 miners and miners' widows rallied here September 16 for passage of a bill which would create a strong new black lung program.

The rally, co-sponsored by the Black Lung Association and the United Mine Workers of America, was attended by miners from Colorado, Kentucky, Utah and West Virginia. J.A. Soccorsi, chairman of a local Black Lung Association Chapter told the rally participants that "Congressman Stagger told me a couple of months ago his hands were tied on the black lung law. Now it's time for us to untie his or her hands."



The costs of coal mining **MUST** include paying for compensating black lung victims.

Following the rally, spokespersons from the different groups and districts represented organized a lobby to demand passage of the Perkins bill currently in the house of representatives. Expressing his support for the miners' demands, West Virginia Congressman Ken Hechler stated that, "It's time for the coal operators to start paying all the costs of coal mining. That includes paying for compensating black lung victims. But we've got a ways to go, so we must fight, and fight and fight!"

Participants in the action have expressed cautious optimism about passage of the bill. "How far the congress has been swayed in favor of a new improved black lung program remains to be seen. One thing is for certain. Many black lung victims and working miners are angry and are willing to take stronger steps to force congress to pass the kind of law people deserve." □

Food Stamp Program Under Attack

(Washington, D.C.) A massive assault of food stamp eligibility is currently being waged by the federal government. A bill introduced to congress by U.S. Senator James Buckley and U.S. Representative Robert Michel and endorsed by U.S. Welfare Commissioner Robert B. Carlson would eliminate 10 million people from the food stamp program. An additional bill from President Ford would allegedly save \$1 billion annually by making equally drastic cuts.

The Buckley-Michel bill would eliminate all households with a gross income above the official poverty line which now stands at \$5,050 for a family of four. It would eliminate virtually all food stamp deductions and would require most households to pay 30% of their gross income to purchase food stamps. Also, any household which has a college student, striker, or a person who has left a job "without good cause" would be ineligible.

The bill places the limit on allowable assets at \$2,500 for households of two or more persons. Items such as cars worth over \$1,200, personal effects over \$1,500 and a house over \$25,000 will be counted as assets. At present, these items are excluded, regardless of value.

It has been pointed out that recent newspaper articles "exposing" families making \$20,000 a year on food stamps, as well as articles in many major publications plagiarizing and distorting booklets on food stamp regulations, have served the federal government in its attempts to rally support for their attack on the food stamp program.

Senator George McGovern has pointed out the latest figures which show the number of food stamp recipients declining. Also, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) own projection to the year 1980, shows the cost and number of people on food stamps to be lower than it is today. From April to June of this year alone, there was a decline of 200,000 participants.

A severe cut back in food stamps will serve only to increase hardships for millions of Americans already hard hit by unemployment, underemployment and inflation. □



AIM

(Pine Ridge, S.D.) Russel Means, leader of the American Indian Movement, recently announced a counterattack against what he called a government conspiracy to harass, kill and imprison members of AIM. Reading from FBI documents, he said that one of the goals of the government is to "have local police put leaders under close scrutiny and arrest them on every possible charge until they can no longer make bail."

Since September 4th, forty-nine members of AIM or related Traditional People have been arrested in the midwest with bail totaling over \$2 million. Three Indians have been killed, and the Lakota chiefs and headsmen have been waiting in Washington since August to meet with the federal government to voice their outrage and concern for their people. Means stated that "Our counterattack is against these vile, sadistic strategies that the respective governments have been using to eradicate our Traditional Way of Life." This counterattack will inaugurate plans for the white man's 200th birthday celebration in South Dakota. □

Senate Bill 1 Threatens Rights

Senate Bill No. 1 has been called "the most dangerous, anti-democratic, piece of 'law and order' and press censorship legislation since the days of the 'Alien and Sedition laws' " by the Nationwide Committee Against Repressive Legislation.

Key features of this bill, which is a product of the Nixon-Mitchell years, include:

- making executions mandatory under certain conditions;
- reviving McCarthy era laws, which the Supreme Court held unconstitutional in 1957, limiting political beliefs and membership in political organizations;
- increasing government wiretapping powers of the President and Attorney General and forcing telephone company workers and landlords to cooperate "forthwith" with government wiretappers;
- cutting the heart out of the Freedom of Information Act by a number of penalties for "leaking" or "receiving" "classified" information even if it "was not subject to classification at the time."
- making every public demonstration subject to possible criminal penalties in a series of vaguely worded infringements on basic democratic rights of free speech and assembly.

The 753 page bill is currently awaiting a new set of public hearings in Washington. "Senate Bill No. 1 should be understood by all the American people," the National Committee urges.

A conference will be held Sunday, November 16th, 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the First Methodist Church of Evanston, 1630 Hinman, Evanston, Ill., to study the implications of Senate Bill No. 1 and to work against repressive legislation. Speakers include: Abner Mikva, U.S. Congressman from the 10th district, Dick Criley, Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights, David Hamlin, ACLU, Warren Wolfson, an attorney, and Alan Bickley, WBBM. □

UFW Election Tally

(Salinas, Calif.) Most recent official results in the secret ballot elections being held among the farmworkers throughout California as a result of a recent state legislative bill, show the United Farm Workers (UFW) ahead of Teamsters and meeting head-on the challenge to their right to represent farmworkers on ranches and farms throughout the state.

As of October 13th, 235 elections have been held. The UFW have won 118 representing 18,396 workers. The Teamsters have won 83 representing 10,516 workers. And in 13 elections the majority voted for no-union representation at all (1,798 workers). In addition, 21 elections are currently undecided representing 9,008 workers.



In a related matter, Teamster "goon squad tactics" have been charged as a result of an incident in early October. Members of the UFW have charged that in response to decisions favoring the UFW by the California state-appointed board to supervise the farmworker elections, the Teamsters slashed the car tires of Board Chairman Bishop Roger Mahoney and roughed-up board member Leroy Chatfield identified by many as a UFW sympathizer. □

Oakland Community School:

Education Put Into Action

The Oakland Community School — East Oakland, California's model elementary level school — has distinguished itself as a source of "hope" for education. As explained by School Director Ericka Huggins, "People look to us for correct methods in elementary level education. They feel that this is what an alternative school should be." Following is a description of the school's curriculum, reprinted from THE BLACK PANTHER.

Children growing up in a highly technological society like that of the U.S. need an education that will give them the basic skills to survive in that society. East Oakland's model elementary level school, the Oakland Community School — now in its fifth year — continues to distinguish itself by providing its students with a quality educational curriculum that they can apply to real life situations.

The Oakland Community School (formerly the Intercommunal Youth Institute) is located in the predominantly Black and Chicano community of East Oakland, and the curriculum is therefore designed to meet the particular social and cultural needs of these children.



The tuition-free School's 120 students — ages two and one-half to 11 — daily put what they learn into action, a characteristic that is greatly lacking in this country's public schools. The Social Science curriculum provides numerous examples of how the children use what they learn as this academic area involves the examination of relationships and problems among people. Among the areas of study in Social Science are American history, current events, Black history, world studies and geography.

Two student activities of the Oakland Community School are directly related to the Social Science curriculum, the Youth Committee and the Youth Store. The Youth Committee, composed of three representatives from Groups 2 through 8, has direct input into decisions concerning the academics and activities of the School as well as provides the students with a forum in which they can air their grievances and discuss any problems they may have. The Youth Committee sets policies on how the students should treat each other, thus concretely dealing with human relationships.

The children's discussion of current events helps them to produce a bi-monthly newsletter with news about events at the School as well as some of the children's own original art and poetry.

The Youth Store was instituted by the children as a means of raising money to take care of their needs. The items sold at the store are donated by the community, and in order for the store to function, the children must organize methods whereby they can secure the items from the community. In addition, the Youth Store utilizes the Math curriculum because the children learn how to use and count money. In a society where it is commonplace to go into a store and be cheated out of one's money, the ability to count is a vital necessity.

The children gain firsthand knowledge of the



Students of the Oakland Community School deeply involved in a science class. The school began its fifth year on September 8, providing Black and poor youth with an innovative and creative educational program which is unparalleled in the stagnant, racist public school system.

problems and issues they discuss in Social Science and other classes through the field trips they take. For example, they regularly attend the San Quentin 6 trial which gives them direct exposure to the inadequacies of the American judicial system for Black and other minority people.

The Language Arts curriculum — designed to develop such skills as reading, vocabulary, grammar and writing — touches all subjects at the School. The children are encouraged to write about their daily experiences in all of their classes, thus consistently strengthening their Language Arts skills and helping them to understand the importance of these skills in relationship to their ability to function in life.

The Oakland Community School uses a basic reading system that provides guidelines in determining the reading skills the children should develop before moving on to higher levels. However, the School's students and staff have developed their own textbooks out of the need to make the children's reading materials relevant to their backgrounds and interest. The children help to write these textbooks and naturally write about the real life experiences they have.

Composing and writing original songs is part of the Music curriculum. Recently, the children studied the blues and were assigned to write a blues song. One of the compositions written was entitled "I Got the Homework Blues," a real, everyday problem for children.

Science in public schools tends to be abstract. However, the Oakland Community School's Science curriculum is personalized and made real for the children. In their nutrition classes they are not simply told that spinach is good for them. They learn the components of spinach and gain an understanding of why it is a healthy food for them to eat. They learn about cell reproduction and division and therefore know what happens in their bodies, for example, when they fall down and skin their knee.

The curriculum of the Oakland Community School has achieved such great success because of the efforts of the staff to make it consistent. The development of the curriculum overview has helped to unify the instructors in the teaching methods they use. The result has been a clear, concise academic program that is providing students at the Oakland Community School with an education unique in America. □

INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

David G. DuBois

Educate to Liberate

David G. DuBois, official spokesperson for the Black Panther Party, recently spoke at the University of California as part of a rally protesting the cutbacks in Black teaching staff. In his speech, excerpts of which appear below, DuBois emphasizes a theme that has characterized many of his speeches in the last few months. He warns that the U.S. power structure, the big monopoly capitalists, will soon make a move to protect and develop their economic interests in Africa. As in Vietnam, military and political action will be justified as "saving the Africans from socialism." Resistance on the part of Black people in this country to imperialist policies in Africa will result in the government's further attempt to impose a fascist, racist repression on Black people.

KEEP STRONG is running excerpts reprinted from The Black Panther, not only because of their importance but also to explain what we mean by "intercommunal perspective." Understanding the relationship of what happens in our communities to what is happening throughout the world has become necessary for all of us as the U.S. government and power structure attempts to maintain an empire throughout the entire world. We truly live in the belly of a monster.

"From its very inception, the Black Panther Party put forward the slogan 'Educate to Liberate.' That slogan was put forward with the understanding that in order to win freedom, in order to win liberation from oppression, an essential ingredient was education — exposure to ideas, the acquiring of skills and the development of the necessary discipline that comes out of careful and in-depth study.

"These things take on a special meaning in this country today because of the advance of technology and the power of technology to form ideas, to accomplish extraordinary events. Technology in the hands of those who oppress us means our continual and increased enslavement. Mastery and the control of technology by the

people is the only guarantee — in our age — of liberation.

"In the struggle for affirmative action on the campuses in California and throughout this country, the community (which is often separate from the campus in a phony way) has an immediate stake. The community looks to the campus and looks to 'the educated ones' to lead in the struggle for the attainment of those basic needs which are the right of every human being. This may not be the way it should be, but it is the way it is. The community lives with a vision that its children and its youth will one day have access to education, to the acquiring of skills, to the eventual control of the technology which today is in the hands of the enemies of the people.

"For Blacks in the community there is no question about the common purpose and goals between Black students on the campuses, Black youth in the community and the Black community itself. This is also true, of course, with the Asian community, the Latin community, and with the poor, White oppressed community. But there is a conspiracy — and several speakers here today have spoken to this conspiracy — there's conspiracy against education, for living for all Black people, for all minorities (so-called), for all poor and working people. That conspiracy isn't new, it's historically ingrained in the 300 years of this country. Enslavement is only possible with ignorance; oppression is really possible so long as those who are oppressed are kept ignorant. Every gain that has been won in the struggle against this conspiracy in the country has been won as the result of relentless and consistent struggle on the part of those who have been the victims of that conspiracy. None have been given. There have been no gifts from the power structure.

"In this particular age, at this particular period, our effort here today has worldwide implications. This conspiracy against education in the U.S. has as its primary objective in today's world to prepare the majority population in this country for aggressive war, in the name of the fight against communism, against the people of Africa, the peoples of the Third World. Monopoly capitalism is fighting a struggle for survival. We may not feel that so keenly in this country. But go outside these shores and you'll get a sense of the march toward socialism, the struggle that is sweeping this world for the advent of socialism; for an end to capitalist, imperialist aggression and war, and you will understand we have allies all over this world and we are stronger than our enemies.

"Africa today plays a special role. Africa is the last remaining massive area on this globe that is rich beyond words in natural resources, that is rich in human resources, and at the same time, is essentially defenseless against modern warfare. Indigenous racism in this country provides a justification for the power structure to wage war against Africa in order to gain control of that wealth, absolute control of that wealth and of those human resources in order to use it to feed the war machine which is still bent on destroying the forces of socialism in this world, most particularly, People's China and the USSR.

"Thus, under the slogans: 'Those Blacks don't know what's best for them;' 'Those Blacks don't understand the dangers of communism and socialism;' 'Those Blacks don't know how to take care of or develop their natural resources;' 'Those Blacks and those Asians don't understand what communism and socialism mean;' under such slogans, the power structure of this country is preparing the majority population of this country to stand passively by or actively support aggressive expansion of imperialist power in Africa and throughout the Third World. Under such a slogan and under such a cause, the national effort will then be, 'We must unite behind those forces who are waging a struggle to defend the colored peoples of the world against the evils of communism.'

"But Black folks in this country aren't going to buy that game. Black people in this country, Asian people in this country, Latin people in this country, remembering the history, recent history of imperialist aggression led by U.S. monopoly capitalism around this world, we're not going to buy that story. It's been used against us in a red-baiting form to disunite us from forces that could have and would have supported us in the struggle for democracy in this country. We've learned that lesson; we're learning it more and more everyday. We represent a cog in the wheel of these plans of monopoly capitalism in this country. Black people, peoples of color, represent a cog in the wheel.

"What does that mean? It means that we are going to have to be eliminated; we're going to have to face the possibility, the probability, of the most intense kind of repression which is going to lead to detention camps, the concentration camps, and the electronic ovens. The repression will be necessary, because as the majority population of this country moves as a result of this ingrown racism behind the slogan, 'Save Africa From Communism,' Black people, colored people of this country will not move behind that



David G. Du Bois, official spokesperson of the Black Panther Party.

slogan, will resist that effort, resist that 'national' cause.

"The fight against 'neo-racism' today is at the heart of the struggle against war and against fascism in this country. The emergence (as a number of speakers have mentioned here today) of new expressions of some of the old forms of racism, most specifically on this campus, of a cutback on the access to education for Black people, for the people of color, of Latin and Asian people, for poor people in general is an expression of this effort aimed at preparing the population to accept the racism which is necessary to support aggression against the Third World.

"There is no more important place to wage the struggle than on the campus. The struggle is going on everywhere. It's in the community, it's in the factories, it's in the countryside and it has to be carried on on the campus. The right to an education and to a higher education could and should be guaranteed for every child and every young person who desires it. It could be as in this country. We have the means by which to achieve that. But, we see quite the reverse happening.

"Everywhere else in the world the direction is toward a guaranteed education for everyone.

"The movement that is being initiated here at U.C. Berkeley is not isolated from similar movements emerging on campuses throughout this country. You may not know about them. One of the uses of technology in the hands of the enemies of the people is the controlled media that keeps such information from us, prevents us from knowing that there are students on the campuses throughout this country organizing themselves in the same way we are organizing here, that you are organizing here to fight back.

"For Black people in this country our struggle is a struggle for survival. This struggle is a last-ditch struggle. That's why we're here and that's why we're going to involve ourselves in the struggle whether anybody else does or not. We are coming to understand that our future depends on our ability to organize ourselves, to unite ourselves, to ally ourselves with any and all forces who want to come along with us to face the onslaught which could mean our death and our end. It means survival for all Americans, too, for every nation that marches to fascism has to have a scapegoat. In this country it will be Black people if we let it be. But it follows on then onto all the people.

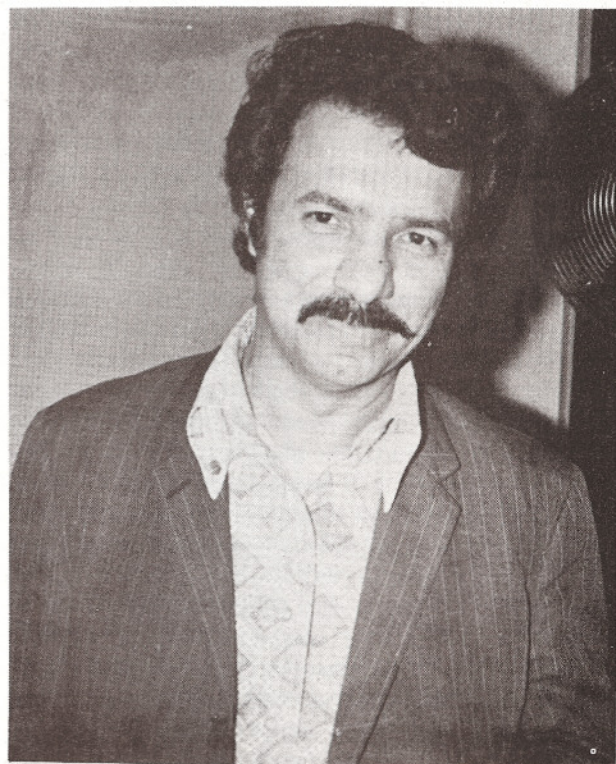
"Black people have been proclaiming the danger of fascism in this country for years and years. Too many people look at us and say, 'They don't know what they are talking about, it's not really that bad.' Watergate should have indicated that to us. Everyday new revelations should indicate that to us. It's all of our responsibility to do everything in our power to guarantee that it's People's Power that determines the future of this country, not the power of the multinationals, of the corporate interests, of the military, of their puppet in Washington.

"We've got to Agitate, here and in Washington. Agitate! We've got to Educate and Educate and Educate! We've got to Initiate! We've got to use our brains and our abilities to find new forms to fight this struggle. We've got to Organize! We have to discipline ourselves. We have to accept the responsibility seriously with however few we are because the power of the people is ultimately greater than the power of the enemy. Finally we have to Unite! We've got to unite. All of us here have to unite and wage this struggle with resolution, with determination, with the conviction that we are on the winning side, that the future does belong to the people, that the people can determine the future!" □

"ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!"

Puerto Rican Independence Gains Support In U.S.

Carlos Feliciano, dedicated fighter for the freedom and independence of Puerto Rico, met with community groups throughout Chicago recently. Brother Feliciano, with more than 25 years of sacrifice and experience working for the freedom of Puerto Rico, is travelling across the country to help educate those in the U.S. about conditions in the U.S.-controlled colony of Puerto Rico, and especially to inform us about five Puerto Rican freedom fighters who have been held unjustly in U.S. prisons for nearly 25 years.



Carlos Feliciano

These five Puerto Rican political prisoners were jailed in the 1950's after two armed protests against the United States government in Washington, D.C. The purpose of their forceful demonstrations was to draw the attention of the people of the United States and of the whole world to the fact that their beautiful homeland — Puerto Rico — was totally controlled by the U.S. government and U.S. big business interests.

Feliciano explained that Puerto Rico was first occupied by U.S. troops in 1898, at which time its government and all institutions became directly controlled by Washington. In 1948, the U.S. Congress passed a federal law — law #53. This law made it illegal to even speak or demonstrate for Puerto Rican independence. Many were jailed, including Carlos Feliciano, for 2 - 10 years under law #53, which, of course, the Puerto Rican people themselves had no voice in passing. In 1950, the people rose up across the island to try to establish their independence and were finally bombed by the U.S. military. It was in this setting that the five Puerto Rican Nationalist Party members took their actions to Washington to vividly show who was dominating their country.

Today they remain imprisoned, the longest-held political prisoners in all of North America. If they had agreed to sign papers stating that they were crazy when they took their actions, and if they had agreed never to return to Puerto Rico and work for independence, they could have been released at least a dozen years ago — or today. But they have maintained their principles and dignity above all.

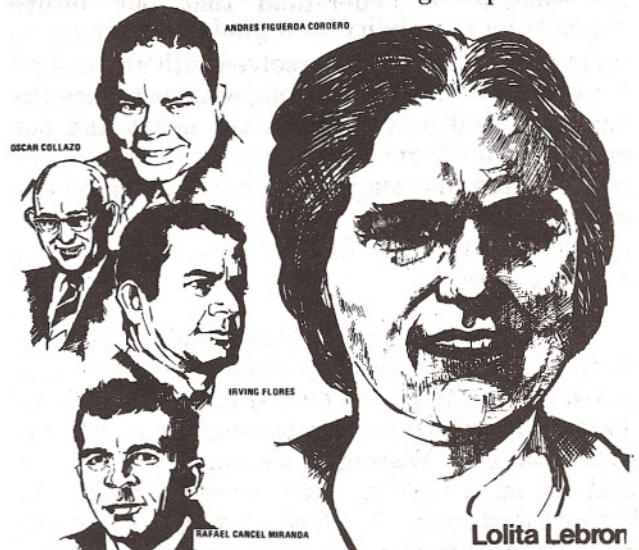
Feliciano detailed how the five Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners are victims of cruel and unusual punishment in U.S. federal prisons. Rafael Cancel Miranda was locked in solitary confinement for two years. Andres Figueroa Cordero has had serious surgery for cancer. Lolita Lebron has been in and out of the hospital many times. They are not allowed visits with people they did not know 25 years ago or with people who are active workers for Puerto Rican independence. They are being held for their firm *political* belief that the Puerto Rican people must control their own future as an independent country.

Brother Feliciano moved his audiences as he described what life is like in Puerto Rico under U.S. domination. Tens of thousands of Puerto Rican people have been pushed from the rich agricultural land into crowded cities. In the cities there are too few jobs in U.S.-owned factories at very low wages. Then again, countless thousands are forced to the cities of the U.S. mainland to seek jobs and find discrimination instead. Many hearts in the audience were touched by the description of people forced from one place to another to eke out a living, for this is the reality of many communities here.

Feliciano told of the human misery that is caused by unemployment of over 33%, reaching

50% and 60% in many towns, while at the same time U.S. corporations do not pay taxes in Puerto Rico for 17 years. Then these corporations often change their name and get another 17 years tax free. Every year these large companies take up to \$800 million in profits out of Puerto Rico.

For only \$5.00 a big company like Kennicott buys the right to dig up valuable land and take out copper, zinc, and gold which belong to the Puerto Rican people. The U.S. military alone owns 13% of the best land on the island on which no food for the people is grown. And the goods which the Puerto Rican people make in the U.S.-owned factories (like Florsheim shoes) are shipped to the U.S. first and then sent back to Puerto Rico and sold there at higher prices.



Community groups throughout Chicago came to see more clearly why the United Nations has officially declared that Puerto Rico is a colony of the U.S. — controlled from the outside to make money, not controlled by and for the Puerto Rican people. And Brother Feliciano's firm dedication to the release of the five Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners through the combined efforts of people on a world-wide basis inspired his listeners to take concrete action.

On Saturday, November 1st, people throughout Chicago joined others in New York, Boston, California and countries around the world in a demonstration. They demanded the unconditional release of the five Puerto Rican Nationalist political prisoners. This is the beginning of an extended campaign to secure their release from prison which will be successful just as the peoples' efforts to secure JoAnne Little's release produced a victory. This demonstration was another way for those in the U.S. to say "we will not allow other people to be enslaved in our name." □

Trickbag

"Trickbag" is a medium length documentary film made by a local Chicago film group called Kartemquin, with the participation of the progressive white organization Rising Up Angry. The film is a refreshing relief from the stereotypes of white racist youth in Chicago-styled neighborhoods that are seen in the establishment media. Instead, "Trickbag" lets Chicago young people speak for themselves about racism.

Young brothers and sisters explain how urban renewal had forced Black and Latino youth into formerly all-white neighborhoods, causing a lot of gangbanging. They also explained how they learned from experience that gangbanging doesn't pay off. When you see the city is pitting you against each other, it makes you tired of being used. A white sister explains in the movie how she was evicted for having a Black friend up to her apartment one afternoon, and several young white sisters complain about the attitude of old white racists trying to keep Black people out of the neighborhood.

Brothers out of the service in a "rap session" talk about seeing the way racism came down in the service and how it was used to divide Black and white GIs. White brothers in the service comment on the respect they had for the unity Black GIs achieved in the face of harassment by the brass.

Finally young workers talk with each other about racism on the job. "The foremen are closer to white workers," but "all of us are getting screwed."

It is good to see proud young white sisters and brothers speaking out against the old racist ways they are supposed to follow. It would be nice if each new generation of whites didn't have to learn through bitter experience on the street, in the service and on the job that racism was not in their interest. But that's the way it is.

There is no education in the schools which explains that the world has been divided along the color line for hundreds of years. No books or downtown movies show how the U.S. has built an empire on the blood, sweat and tears of people of color throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America and of Black people inside this country. No teachers in the schools point out that white people suffer injustice at the hands of the rich because they are separated from the power of oppressed people of color around the world by prejudice they are taught from before they learn to speak.

So, as long as we have to learn about the stupidity of racism from bitter experience, it is important that each of us knows our experience is not isolated. There are thousands of other white people who are learning the same lessons, trying to understand what a few rich and powerful racists have done to the whole world. "Trickbag" is a real contribution to the human movement. □

"Trickbag" will be shown at the ISC Saturday Morning Forum, Nov. 8th, 10 am at 4520 N. Beacon.

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

linda ronstadt

"Prisoner in Disguise," the new Linda Ronstadt album, includes one of the finest songs going around these days in country music, *Love Is a Rose*.

Linda speaks to many of us talking about *Prisoners in Disguise*, describing the struggle to "find a space of your own" and refusing to give up the independence that keeps us looking for

something better, the right to "be what I am."

Linda's version of *Roll um Easy* sounds like the late Janis Joplin but is in her own style, as is her version of Dolly Parton's sweet *I Will Always Love You*, full out, crying, but well-controlled. And the solid beat of *Heat Wave* breaks down into the quiet reflection of *Many Rivers To Cross*. "Prisoner in Disguise" is today's blues, sad and lonely, but not giving up from going on. □

“REVOLUTIONARY SUICIDE”

KEEP STRONG is reprinting the chapter on *Reading from Revolutionary Suicide* by Huey P. Newton, the brilliant chief-theoretician of the Black Panther Party currently in exile in Cuba. In the Chicago public schools, like public schools throughout this country, our youth are not provided with the basic skills they need to survive and flourish as they grow older. It is common to find young people walking out of high school with a diploma in hand but not able to read a daily newspaper.

Huey P. Newton, born and raised in the

oppressed community, is no exception. By the time he reached his last year of high school he was functionally illiterate [he couldn't read]. In the excerpt from his autobiography which follows, the struggle to maintain self-respect and dignity against great odds and a mountain of disapproval, discouragement and shame is poignantly described, as Huey tells how he taught himself to read at the age of 18.

By the time I had reached my last year of high school, I was a functional illiterate. Melvin was in college and doing very well. I felt that I could do



Huey P. Newton, the brilliant chief theoretician of the Black Panther Party.

it, too, but when I talked to a counselor about it, he made the mistake of telling me I was not college material. I set out to prove them wrong. First, I had to learn to read. The school authorities told me not only that I was not college material because of my performance in school, but also that I was not intelligent enough to do college work. According to the Stanford-Binet test, I had an I.Q. of 74. They felt justified in discouraging me. I knew I could do anything I wanted to do; that was how I maintained my self-respect. I wanted to go to college, so my defiance of their opinion, as well as my admiration for Melvin, were incentives for me to learn to read.

I knew I would have to read well in order to make it in college. I also knew that it would be difficult to find someone to teach me because I was embarrassed. I decided to teach myself. My key was the poetry I had learned to recite. I knew plenty of words but could not yet recognize them in print. Using Melvin's poetry books, I began to study the poems I knew, associating the sounds in my head with the words on the page.

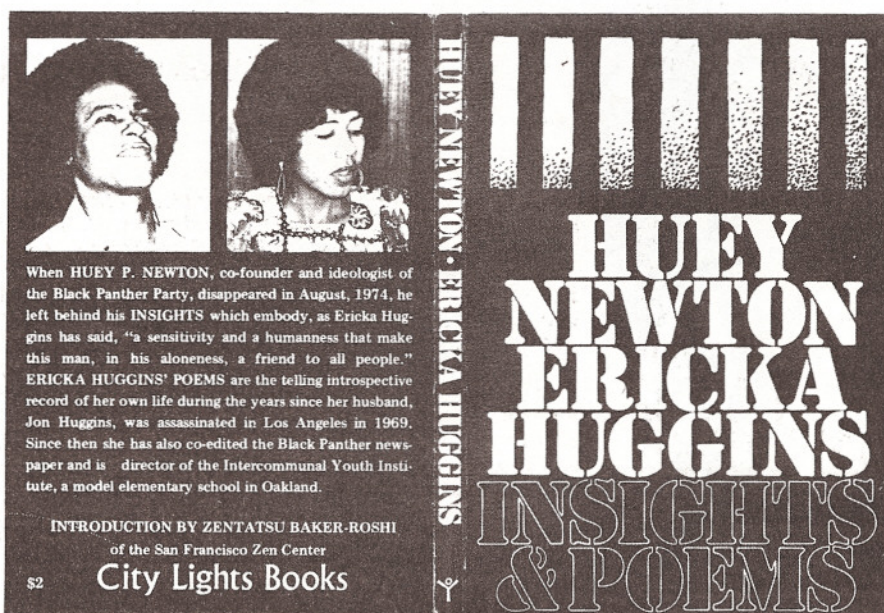
Then I picked up Melvin's copy of Plato's *Republic*, bought a dictionary, and started learning to read things I did not already know. The *Republic* seemed a logical choice; I wanted to join Melvin and his friends in their intellectual conversations. It was a long and painful process, but I was determined. Lee Edward had taught me to look them in the eye and keep advancing. They said I was not college material, so I was advancing on them.

I spent long hours every day at home going through the *Republic* and pronouncing the words I knew. If I did not know a word, I would look it up in the dictionary, learn how to sound it out if I could, and then learn the meaning. Proper names and Greek words were difficult, and I soon began to ignore them. Day after day, for eight or nine hours at a time, I worked on that book, going over it page by page, word by word. I had no help from anyone because I did not want it.

Embarrassment overwhelmed me. My mother loved reading and devoured books. Here I was, an adult who could not read, as my father, my

JUST RELEASED

—Johnny Spain: "...a penetrating probe for truth."



By Black Panther Party Leader
HUEY P. NEWTON
and
Oakland Community School
Director
ERICKA HUGGINS

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mother and Melvin could. I felt so low I stayed in my room where nobody could see what I was doing, pouring over the words using the dictionary on every single line, and memorizing the sounds and the meanings.

Once or twice I asked Melvin to pronounce a word for me or explain it. He was shocked that I could not recognize some of them and at first, I think, disgusted. That hurt. His disgust could not compare with my own. He said that not knowing how to read was a very bad thing, but I knew that by then, and his disapproval made it even more difficult to learn. My sense of shame had kept me from seeking help earlier; now it became impossible for me to ask. I had to do it myself.

It seems to me that nothing is more painful than a sense of shame that overwhelms you and afflicts the soul. This pain may not even be your fault, but it can still be very acute. It hurts more when you know that there is no natural process, as in the body, whereby the pain will go away. You have to relieve it with your own strength of will, your own discipline, and determination. I'd been hurt many times in fights, but nothing

equaled the pain I felt at not being able to read. The pain from fighting went away in time. The shame I felt would not go away.

I do not know how long it took me to go through Plato the first time, probably several months. When I finally finished, I started over again. I was not trying to deal with the ideas or concepts, just learning to recognize the words. I went through the book about eight or nine times before I felt I had mastered the material. Later on, I studied the *Republic* in college. By then I was prepared for it.

When I began to read, a whole new world opened to me. I became interested in books. I still could not read very well, but each new book made it easier. I did not mind spending many hours, because reading was enjoyment, rather than work. When I reached this point, I accumulated books and read one after another. I did this all through my senior year in high school and the summer following. By the time I really knew my way through a book I had graduated from high school. □



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COMMUNITY FORUMS

During October, the popular Community Forums, held each Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at 4520 N. Beacon in Uptown, covered a wide variety of topics.

Starting the month, Ray Hillburn's fine country music band, which plays regularly at Pam's Playhouse at 4569 N. Clark St., had the crowded hall "jumpin' and carrin' on" as they knocked out everything from Merle Haggard to some solid country rock, while people of all ages enjoyed a hearty community breakfast.

The following week a discussion of the schools was preceded by a presentation by the Uptown Food Coop of how people working together could eliminate the middle man and save needed dollars in the weekly food budget. Complaints about the schools centered on the use of drugs and "psychiatric examination" to manipulate and eliminate high spirited youth from the schools.

The third Saturday meeting was addressed by brother Eddy Ramirez of the Young Lords Organization, explaining the growing movement for the independence of Puerto Rico. (see page 36) The Forum then went on to hear community testimony about an incident of gross police brutality at Magnolia and Sunnyside. The demand was decided on to "Get Officer Culver Out of Uptown!" (see page 12)

The final Saturday was dedicated to a downtown march in support of the independence of Puerto Rico and the demand to free 5 Puerto Rican political prisoners held in U.S. federal prisons for 25 years. □



The Forums discussed problems in the schools, a case of police brutality and the Independence movement in Puerto Rico.



The Uptown Food Coop made a presentation and DISPLAY.



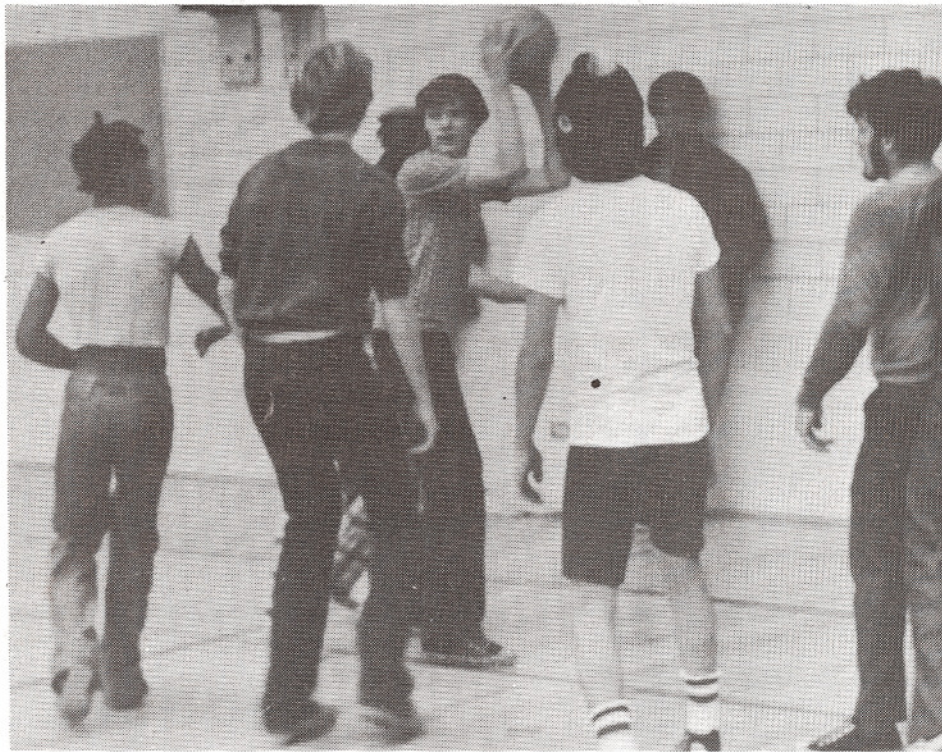
The community testified about police abuse.



Eddy Ramirez, Young Lords Organization

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CORRECTION — WE APOLOGIZE

In last month's **KEEP STRONG**, the last two pictures on P. 4 of "On the Street" were mixed up. The corrected names and pictures appear below.



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Henry Garcia
1506 W. Lawrence

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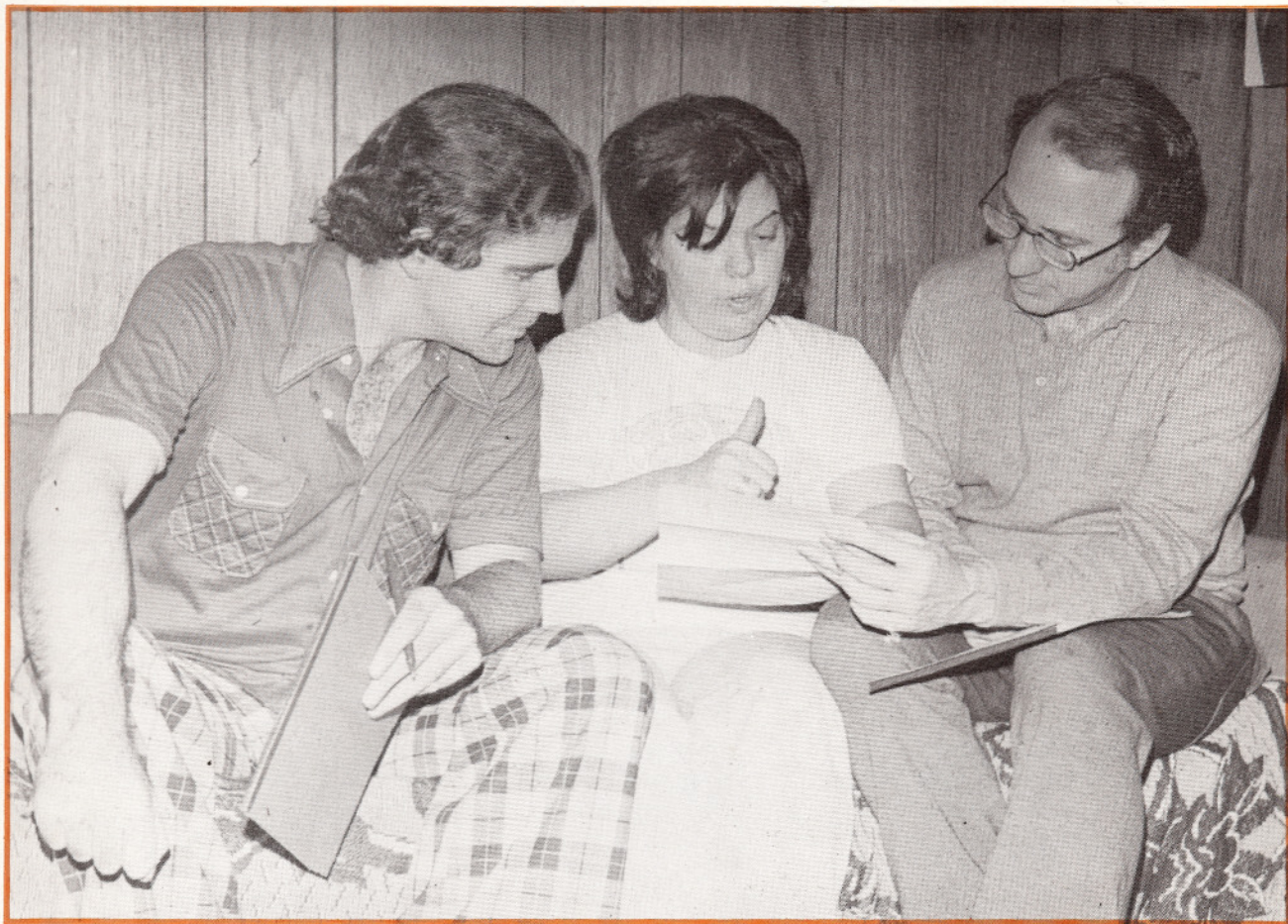
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